



FLYTIPPERS RUN UP £2M BILL FOR TAXPAYERS IN ONE YEAR



Rubbish that was left on land off Jackson Street in Lye

FLYTIPPING is costing taxpayers more than £2 million a year with an average 90 incidents taking place EVERY DAY.

Figures from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs show that there were 824 fly tipping incidents in Dudley last year.

But the situation is even worse in neighbouring boroughs with 3,456 fly tipping incidents in Wolverhampton last year, and even that was well below the 4,599 in Walsall, which left that borough with a £350,000 clear up bill.

There were 4,140 incidents in Sandwell which cost Sandwell Council £250,000 to clean up.

An investigation by our sister paper the

Express & Star found there were 32,569 reports of waste being dumped illegally to councils across the Black Country, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Birmingham last year – a 16 per cent increase from 2012/13.

Organised criminal gangs who offer to dispose of rubbish at a knockdown price are believed to be behind 'industrial scale' dumping seen in recent months.

It costs the region's councils £1.8m to remove dumped waste last year and a further £580,000 to investigate offences.

But only £54,706 was recouped through fines at court with authorities taking just 58 prosecutions.

And only 456 fixed penalty notices were issued last year in the Midlands which

would have returned between a further £54,000 and £182,000.

In May 2016, councils were given the power to impose £400 fixed-penalty notices for fly-tipping. But critics say that for criminal gangs – or even ordinary householders – it is worth taking the risk because the fine can be cheaper than hiring a skip for a fortnight. Rising waste charges and moves to fortnightly bin collections have also been blamed.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said travellers, who he likened to 'roving vagabonds' were behind some of the large scale dumping.

There were also 417 cases in South Staffordshire.

POLICE

Two killed in knife incident at flats

A WOMAN and a man have died while a third person was critically injured following stabbings in Wolverhampton yesterday morning (Wednesday).

Police have confirmed that a woman, believed to be in her 30s, died at the scene in the Merry Hill area of the city, while a male suspect, also believed to be in his 30s was pronounced dead a short time later.

They said they died after a 'domestic stabbing', where a man is believed to have attacked two women before stabbing himself. Another woman, believed to be in her 50s, suffered critical stomach wounds.

Police arrived with armed officers and used stun grenades to storm a flat at Chadwick Close, off Leasowes Drive.

LEISURE

ScaryCanary music venue set to close

A POPULAR live music venue in Stourbridge is to close its doors at the end of the month.

ScaryCanaryOwner Stacey Smith made the announcement on Facebook. She said in her post she was moving on to new projects and it was 'not a decision made lightly'.

ScaryCanary, on High Street, started out as a fashion store before launching a music venue three years ago. It will remain open until March 31 with events planned for the final four weeks.

BEER

Beacon shines in Camra pub awards

A SEDGLEY pub has been named the best in Dudley and South Staffordshire by the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra).

The award will be presented to the Beacon Hotel in Bilston Street on Wednesday.

A cult beer brewed at the pub has also been voted champion beer of the West Midlands. The Bob Jones Memorial Cup was presented by Sarah Edmondson to Simon Massey, head brewer of the Sarah Hughes Brewery, for its six per cent Dark Ruby Mild.

Sarah Edmondson is widow of former West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner and Camra activist Bob Jones.

INSIDE

CHEERS! MEET PUB LANDLORD



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Three blocks affected by 'serious failings' on safety CONCERN OVER GAS METER RISK

FAMILIES have been living with potentially unsafe gas meters for almost two years at high-rise flats in Halesowen, it has been revealed.

Emergency works are to be carried out after an inspection found gas meters at three blocks in Halesowen did not comply with safety regulations. Dudley Council has launched an investigation into claims the meters were not safely installed in 2015, amid fears they have posed a fire risk to families.

It is thought meters at a number of properties were not earth bonded, which protects people from electric shocks.

The gas meters were fitted at Worcester House, Malvern House and Tenbury House, off Hill Street, between April and November 2015.

The job is believed to have been contracted by National Grid to a firm that is now in administration.

A report on the matter from a council housing officer said: "I am provided with evidence even at this point in time that acknowledges some properties do not have the bonding in place."

Concerns

The officer added: "Clearly the works concluded in November 2015 and some 16 months later it appears a number of properties do not have earth-bonded meters."

"I absolutely share (councillors') concerns in relation to this and have given clear instruction in respect of records and explanations that I expect to be provided to me by relevant staff."

Letters have been sent to residents informing them of the corrective works that need to take place.

The letter, entitled 'urgent electrical upgrade works', reads: "Following a peri-

Report by Richard Guttridge

odic inspection (carried out in the last 12 months) on your home it has been identified that to ensure the wiring meets the Government Decent Homes standard and complies with current regulations, it needs to be upgraded. The extent of the upgrade work involved will require the installation of a new main water bond earth cable."

Addressing the issue at a meeting of the full council, Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing, said the 'matter is a concern for us all' and would be 'subject to a full and proper report'.

Halesowen councillor Simon Phipps said he was extremely concerned by the revelations, adding it was 'potentially an absolute miracle there have been no problems'.

He added: "This incident highlights potentially serious failings. Any works carried out at that time should have been checked."

Councillor Partridge said: "The chief housing officer is investigating the background to the issues raised. The council has been in urgent discussions with our contractors who delivered the original work and a programme of works to rectify the issues began on February 27."

MP and movie star back campaign



James Morris MP and actor Jason Isaacs with Marie Curie nurses Sally Monger-Godfrey and Lib Wolley

HALESOWEN and Rowley Regis MP James Morris has joined with Harry Potter movie star Jason Isaacs to 'Make Every Daffodil Count' for Marie Curie.

Mr Morris MP and Isaacs, this week revealed as Captain Lorca of the Starship Discovery in the forthcoming Star Trek spin-off TV show, are backing the 'Make Every Daffodil Count' campaign this March to help Marie Curie provide care.

Mr Morris and actor Jason were pictured with Marie Curie nurses, Sally Monger-Godfrey and Lib Wolley, at a parliamentary event in Westminster to celebrate the launch of the Great Daffodil Appeal, the charity's biggest annual fundraising campaign.

James pledged his support to the appeal and is encouraging local people to help the charity raise more money than ever before by simply giving a donation and wearing a Marie Curie daffodil pin.

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Bishop concerned over church raids



Bishop Graham Usher

THIEVES have been criticised by the Bishop of Dudley after two more Black Country churches were targeted by raiders stealing cherished silverware used for Holy Communion.

The Bishop of Dudley, the Rt Rev Graham Usher, says he has been left 'sickened' by the thefts.

The gang has been described as 'professional' and used an angle grinder to open a safe before taking money and religious items.

St Peter's in Cradley and St Paul's in Blackheath were targeted by thieves on

Thursday night into early hours Friday.

According to the Bishop, the thieves made off with 'cherished' silver items used during Holy Communion, which are worth thousands of pounds.

Christ Church in Colesey was also ransacked on February 20.

The Bishop said: "I am sickened that three Black Country churches have been burgled this week and cherished Holy Communion silver taken. All the churches are serving their neighbours."

Reverend Katryn Leclézio, of St Peter's, said she was sure the group who

struck at her church were a gang of professional thieves.

She said the criminals broke in overnight Thursday to Friday and carried out a thorough search of the building.

Rev Leclézio said: "They were a professional group who came very neatly through a window, jemmed open the vestry door, pulled out an enormous cast iron safe and angle-ground the back off it. They took money and silver."

The break-in bears similarities to the theft at Christ Church, which also saw the church's safe broken into.

Terrorism hotspot is right on our doorstep

THE West Midlands is one of the terrorism hotspots of the UK, a major new report warns.

Islamist terrorism has been on the rise in the region over the past 20 years with a significant proportion of convictions in Birmingham and the Black Country.

The findings are in a report published in Parliament by think tank the Henry Jackson Society. The 1,000-page report found that of 269 people convicted of terrorism offences between 1998 and 2015, 49 came from the West Midlands – making it the UK's second major terrorism hotspot, behind London. Two convictions came from Sandwell, one from Wolverhampton and one from Dudley, while 39 came from Birmingham, with Hall Green and Hodge Hill highlighted.

Khaled Abusalama, from Smethwick, was convicted for sending funds to Libyan Islamic Fighting Group. He was jailed in 2007 for 22 months.

Plot

Mohammed Saud, of Smethwick, was jailed for 18 years and nine months for being part of a bomb plot in West Yorkshire in 2013. He was convicted after two of his accomplices, Jewell Uddin and Omar Mohammed Khan, were stopped by police on the M1 as they travelled back to Birmingham. An IED was found in the vehicle.

Usman Choudhary, from Dudley, was convicted in 2015 for disseminating terrorist material. He was jailed for nine months.

Bilal Zaheer Ahmad, of Wolverhampton, was jailed for 12 years in 2011 for posting a message on a website encouraging the murder of MPs who voted in favour of the Iraq war.

In August last year – a period not covered by the report – seven members of a 13-strong Walsall terror cell were convicted.

A record number of people called West Midlands Police's anti-terrorist hotline last year – 22,000 calls. It comes as the police force claims the 'scale, volume and complexity' of the terror threat continues to grow.

The force is supporting a national campaign called "Make Nothing Happen" that focuses on the critical role the public can play in defeating terrorism.

Runners take rain in their stride



Runners in the Resolution Run at Hagley Hall with, centre, Jade Clifton and Lucy Parkes from Halesowen

MORE than 500 people dug out their running shoes to race through the grounds of historic Hagley Hall.

The annual Stroke Association Resolution Run event was the most successful yet, with more people registering to take part than ever before. People could sign up for either a 5k, 10k or 15k run at the event on Sunday, which was one of the 31 taking place across the UK.

Clent Hills and Hagley Rotary Clubs helped to raise awareness

and organise the event alongside the mansion's owner Lord Cobham.

Louise Lawless, community events fundraising manager for the Stroke Association, said: "It was an absolutely fantastic event. I want to thank everyone who took part including a very special thanks to Lord Cobham for hosting the event."

"Despite the awful weather we couldn't believe just how many people chose to come out a run for us and we're hugely grateful for their support. Everyone was in re-

ally high spirit despite it being very wet, cold and muddy."

The money raised through the Resolution Run will help the Stroke Association fund vital research and support people in the West Midlands.

In Dudley, around 400 people took part in the annual Action Heart Five Mile race on Sunday. Twenty five walkers also took part in the event, which raised £8,000 for the Action Heart Centre at Russells Hall Hospital.

Football facilities loan move

COUNCIL bosses are set to take out a £339,000 loan in order to rescue plans to regenerate sports facilities at a Black Country park.

Plans to create new community buildings and changing rooms in Homer Hill Park, Cradley, suffered a blow after it was revealed the Football Foundation was not going to fund the scheme.

Now work is due to be finished at the end of the year following the loan being secured by Dudley Council.

Councillor Richard Body, chair of the park's Friends group, said the loan would be a 'better option' than the council continuing to pay annual costs for the hire of temporary changing rooms.

He explained: "We were trying to get a match funding grant but we have been unable to do that. It is very sad that the Football Foundation didn't want to fund it, because we don't only have adults on the park but we have children's clubs too. Because the interest rates are so low, it (the council) would be better off to go ahead with the loan than to keep on hiring the changing rooms. More than £300,000 must have been spent on them in the past few years."

In June 2013, cabinet approved the construction of new permanent changing rooms on the park for around £250,000, to replace the temporary buildings.

Since then the scheme has been further developed to include a community meeting space, refreshments facilities and public toilets, car parking and a multi use games area with lighting, at a cost of £589,000.

Coroner suspends stabbing inquest

A MOTHER who died from stab wounds was carried into a Rowley Regis GPs' surgery, an inquest heard.

Black Country Coroner's Court was told that Tina Billingham, of Granville Road, Cradley Heath, had suffered two stab wounds, one to the heart and another to her stomach and liver.

Senior coroner's officer, Stephen Binsley, explained that the injured 54-year-old was carried from a van into the medical centre on Hawes Lane at around 3.50pm on February 6.

Ronald Cooke, 54, of Granville Road, Cradley Heath, has been charged with murder.

Senior coroner Mr Zafar Siddique, said: "I am formally suspending this inquest until the conclusion of the trial."

Pub of the year is set to get trophy

THE Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale will present its pub of the year award on March 25.

Members will visit the 187-year-old Waggon and Horses, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen, for the 1pm presentation.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Call for action on rough sleepers

A COUNCILLOR has called for action over an increasing homelessness problem in Dudley.

Concerns have been raised about the number of rough sleepers across Dudley borough.

Speaking at a meeting of Dudley Council, Conservative councillor David Vickers, member for Halesowen South, suggested empty council houses and flats could be used to provide a place for them to stay. He said: "We have got to get some of these rough sleepers off the street and into homes."

Zoo sells tickets for patriotic party

PLANS are in place for extravagant St George's Day celebrations at Dudley Zoo.

Between 3pm and 7pm on St George's Day - Sunday, April 23 - they'll be hosting a patriotic party in Dudley Castle courtyard, complete with medieval characters, dragons, children's entertainers, crafts, storytelling and stilt walkers.

The tickets, which are valid from 3pm, cost £2.50 per person. Children aged two and younger go free. To book a place, go to the website at www.dudleyzoo.org.uk or call (01384) 215313.

MP's praise for National Lottery

HALESOWEN and Rowley Regis MP James Morris has thanked National Lottery players for their role in raising over £30 million every week for good causes.

He has urged more local arts, sports, heritage and community groups to apply for National Lottery funding.

Since the National Lottery started in 1994, £10,953,702 of funding has gone to 380 projects in Halesowen and Rowley Regis. To find out more visit www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk

Vets' still among the best places to work

FOR the fifth year in a row, a family-run vets' surgery has been named in the 'Best 100 Best Small Companies To Work For'.

White Cross Vets, which has practices in Wolverhampton, Bloxwich, Tividale and Kings Heath, achieved the highest placing of any veterinary business, reaching 38 in the prestigious list.

The judging panel surveyed tens of thousands of employees from companies in every sector.

Fundraiser at The Cat

A CHARITY night of music and entertainment is being held at a pub in Enville, near Stourbridge.

The event at The Cat on March 25 will be raising funds for mental health charity Dudley MIND and Epilepsy Action.

Tickets are £8 from 07941 085227.

Officer faces the axe after harassing an ex girlfriend

A POLICE officer from Dudley faces losing his job after admitting harassing his ex-girlfriend, a court heard.

Dean Hickens pretended to be a former partner of his ex Carrie Stimpson, also a serving police officer with West Midlands Police, in text messages in order to check whether she had had an affair.

He also tried to change her Facebook login details and drove past her house in the early hours to see if there was someone else there. Hickens, aged 42, of Dingle Close, admitted harassment without violence.

Mr Tim Talbot-Webb, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton magistrates: "This was a relationship of five years and the couple had been living together. Carrie left the home and it wasn't a happy break-up.

"Mr Hickens went about a course of action that amounted to harassment"

Miss Sue Swann, defending, said Hickens was now on medication for depression and anxiety.

She said: "He knows that he will lose his job. The consequences of this will be devastating for him and in my opinion is a very harsh punishment."

Hickens was sentenced to a 12 month community order, including 20 days of rehabilitation activity, and an eight week curfew between 8.30pm and 7am. He must pay £135 in legal costs, an £85 victim surcharge and £250 compensation.

A spokesman for the force said Pc Hickens would now face internal disciplinary proceedings and his future with the force would be considered.

Bid to tighten rules on smoke

DUDLEY Council is set o implement a borough-wide order enabling them to take legal action over illegal chimney flues.

At a meeting of the authority's cabinet yesterday (Wednesday), councillors were being asked to approve a new smoke control order in accordance with the Clean Air Act 1993, to declare the whole of the Dudley borough a 'smoke control area'.

This will make it an offence to emit smoke from a chimney unless caused by use of an authorised fuel, or by the use of a fireplace on an approved list.

The council says there are 1,029 properties and 28 areas of land, where buildings could be built, that are not subject to the current smoke control order.

Killing inquest is adjourned again

AN inquest into the death of 24-year-old man fatally stabbed in Brierley Hill has been adjourned again while police hunt suspect Niron Parker-Lee. Mansoor Mahmood, of Bague Walk, Brierley Hill, died on October 15.

Council tax rise reduced after dispute

A PLANNED council tax hike of nearly five per cent was thrown out after the Conservatives and UKIP teamed up to reject the budget put forward by Labour-led Dudley Council.

Now Dudley borough residents will see a council tax rise of 3.99 per cent from April, as part of an agreement reached following a lengthy, and at times chaotic, full meeting of the local authority, which lasted almost five hours on Monday.

The proposed budget included a council tax rise of 4.99 per cent, which is the highest that can be implemented by councillors without requiring a public referendum.

Labour argued that the increase is needed to save £26 million over the next three years.

Presenting the budget, cabinet member for finance Councillor David Sparks said: "It is incumbent on any member moving an amendment for any lesser amount to specify what they would cut."

Tory finance spokesman Councillor Steve Clark then put forward an amendment suggesting the alternative council tax rise of 3.99 per cent, and also for all-out elections to be held every four years, with the first taking place in May next year.

"Labour have blamed Tory cuts for their own mismanagement," said Councillor Clark. "You've got to stop this smoke and mirror politics. Dudley's Labour-controlled authority has spent £1.3m on consulting this year alone. Six million over the last four years, doing the job we pay our officers for."

Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley said moving to the all-out election system, selecting all council members every four years instead of a third of members at a time, would save the council around £250,000 every non-election year.

In response, leader of the council Labour's Pete Lowe described it as a 'ridiculous amendment'.

Initially the amendment was lost by 42 votes against and 29 in favour.

However Labour's budget was then narrowly rejected with 36 against and 35 in favour. The Conservative motion, and UKIP amendment, was then approved by 36 to 35.

One punch fractured peacemaker's eye socket

A HAIRDRESSER was left with a fractured eye socket and cheekbone after being punched as he tried to defuse a row in a pub beer garden.

David Homer floored Leo Demirtas as he attempted to act as peacemaker during an argument between Homer and his father.

The single blow at the Wagon and Horses in Cradley Heath knocked the victim unconscious and left him needing surgery. One of his eyes 'sunk' as a result of the vicious blow, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Homer, aged 28, of Ketley Hill Road, Dudley, was jailed for 14 months over the attack.

The court heard he had drunk at least six pints before a row started with his father in the early hours of April 17 last year.

Mr Demirtas knew Homer, as he came into his hair salon, so believed he would be able to calm the situation, said Mr Mark Phillips, prosecuting.

Mr Phillips told the court: "The complainant was outside having a cigarette with his fiancée. While he was standing there two other people came out, having quite a heated argument.

"Because Leo felt he knew the defendant he went along to try and diffuse the situation. He approached the defendant with his arms out saying 'calm down'.

Unconscious

"The defendant said 'who are you?' and he replied 'it's Leo, calm down', at which the defendant struck him in the left eye, knocking the complainant unconscious."

Mr Demirtas was taken to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley and returned three weeks later to undergo surgery.

In a victim statement read to the court, he said he feared the attack had ruined his life. "It was bad enough doing it when I tried to help, now I will have to live with this for the rest of my life."

"I still have pain in my eye and will have to have future surgery."

Homer admitted inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent.

Recorder Collingwood Thompson told him: "The complainant came over to see if he could assist and you responded by punching him."

Miss Nicole Steers, defending, said: "It was a single blow and he has recognised he was wrong."

Baggies' fans urged to back pub



Cheer - tenants Chris Hughes and Kerry Poole outside The Hawthorns pub in Blackheath

BOING, boing, cheers! A pub which is popular with generations of West Bromwich Albion fans has been saved - but now the new owner is calling on the community to help it survive.

The Hawthorns pub, at The Ross in Blackheath, was described as 'suitable for a variety of alternative uses subject to obtaining any appropriate planning permission' when it went up for auction with SDL Bigwood on February

23, suggesting that the site could be redeveloped.

But new owner Steven Hayer has pledged it will remain a pub so long as it can turn a profit and is supported by the community.

Investment

Mr Hayer, who bought it prior to the auction for an undisclosed sum, said he had acquired it as an investment.

He said: "The plan is to keep it as a local pub with the community's help. If it can be successful, then that is how it will remain. But obviously, it has to make money to sustain itself. If not, then we will have to look at alternatives."

He urged West Bromwich Albion fans to keep using the pub. "If there is anybody interested in taking the lease on then they are welcome to contact me," he added.

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Football heroes unite in tribute to terror victims

Report by David Banner

FOOTBALL fans had the chance to dine with some of the greats, who gathered to raise funds for the Smile for Joel charity.

Walsall, Wolves and West Brom legends agreed to take part in the fundraiser for the charity founded in memory of terror victims Joel Richards, 19, his grandfather Patrick Evans, both from Wednesbury, and his uncle Adrian Evans from Bilston.

Patrick would have turned 80 on Saturday while Adrian would have been 51 on the day of the event. They were killed in the massacre at the holiday resort of Sousse, Tunisia, in 2015.

All three were devoted Saddlers fans, and the Dining with Legends event was held at the Banks's Stadium. Steve Daley, John Richards, Kenny Hibbitt, Don Goodman and Mel Eves were among those who turned out to support the charity which supports families hit by murder and terrorism.

Mourned

The charity has been set up by Joel's brother Owen, who survived the attack at the age of 16, and their mother Suzy.

Speaking at the event, Suzy said: "My dad would have been in his element. It makes me feel guilty being here, knowing they would have loved to be. The lads were all season ticket holders..."

The football community mourned the loss of referee Joel, who was on his way to enjoying a big future in the game.

Suzy said: "The FA put him on a steering group to fast-track him to premier level. There have been so many tributes from the FA for Joel." These include The Joel Richards Legacy Fund, set up to support young players, referees and coaches.

The fundraiser was held shortly after the conclusion of a six-week inquest at London's Royal Courts of Justice, where the coroner ruled all 30 holidaymaker victims were unlawfully killed.

Former Wolves, Walsall and Manchester City player Steve Daley, who was a guest speaker, said: "If you were ever in that position yourself, you would hope that people



Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby with the wristbands on This Morning

do the same and rally round to help you. Your heart goes out to the parents and relatives."

He praised organiser Steve Saul, who brought together the sporting legends and around 200 guests. "It's a show of support and togetherness," he added.

Smile for Joel won more celebrity support after Suzy and Owen appeared on This Morning following the inquest ruling. Presenters Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby were pictured wearing Smile for Joel wristbands.

Comedian and actress Dawn French and pop star and The Voice judge Jennifer Hudson were also pictured wearing the wristbands.

Another star-studded fundraiser is planned by the charity in May at Banks's Stadium, a football match featuring celebrities such as Calum Best and former world champion boxer Joe Calzaghe. Singer Shayne Ward and glamour model Katie Price will be managers of the two teams on May 13 which will also raise funds for Compton Hospice. Tickets from www.eticketing.co.uk/walsallfc at £10 for adults £5 children.



Singer Jennifer Hudson, who acquired a wristband as a guest on This Morning



Dawn French, who was also a guest on the show, and was given a wristband



Footballing elite, past and present, at the event. Back from left, Steve Daley, Chris Marsh, Kenny Hibbitt, Kenny Mower, Joe Mayo, Ally Robertson, Matt Murray, Don Goodman, Ray Graydon, Gordon Cowens, Chris Nicholl, and David Kelly. Front, from left, Richard Sneekes, Neil Rioch, Gary Shaw, Darren Wrack, Owen Richards and Suzy Richards, Mel Eves, John Richards, Geoff Horsfield, and Tony 'Bomber' Brown



Walsall fans, Patrick, Joel and Adrian



Matt Murray with Don Goodman



Wolves legend Kenny Hibbitt

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Year-long roadworks soon get under way

A YEAR-LONG roadworks scheme to improve a busy Black Country route is set to get under way within weeks.

Pensnett High Street, Dudley, will be widened and pedestrian crossings installed as part of the £5 million scheme aimed at cutting congestion.

The project will cause major disruption on the road, used by 30,000 vehicles a day, but highways bosses said once complete the changes would benefit drivers and pedestrians.

Council chiefs said work was expected to start during April or May and that a traffic management system for the scheme was still being finalised.

The road is a vital artery of the Black Country and carries a huge volume of traffic, serving the Pensnett Trading Estate – the largest secured trading estate in Europe – as well as Russells Hall Hospital.

The scheme will see the road widened into two lanes in both directions and new traffic lights installed. It is hoped that the improvements will also aid bus journeys and make services often delayed by traffic more reliable.

Businesses and residents have been relocated to allow the work to take place after a compulsory purchase order on land was signed off by the Transport Secretary.

Taxi drivers 'up in arms' as police link stabbings

A TAXI driver and another man were stabbed in two attacks during the early hours in Stourbridge which are being linked by police.

The taxi driver was knifed by a passenger at the BP Petrol Station in Pedmore Road, Lye, at around 3.50am on Saturday.

The victim was left with a hand wound and crashed into a stationary car as he tried to get away. The attacker, thought to be with a group of four or five men and women in the taxi, fled the scene.

Just 20 minutes afterwards police found another man with stab wounds less than two miles away in Stourbridge town centre.

The injured man was discovered in an alleyway off St John's Road, Stourbridge Ring Road, at around 4.10am.

The 31-year-old was taken to hospital, where he was treated for two stab injuries to his stomach, one to his back and two cuts to the head.

Detectives say they believe the attacks, which happened in the early hours, are linked and have launched an investigation.

They say the violence is thought to be linked to an altercation between a group of men near to The Arena Nightclub, on Hagley Road. Detective Sergeant Chris Jones said: "It is believed there had been an earlier dispute between a group of

By Lucy Thompson

men at a bus stop near to The Arena Nightclub, which then continued into the town centre. This resulted in a man being stabbed and a group of men and women were seen running from the scene.

"We have launched an investigation and so far it's clear that both attacks are linked."

"I am appealing for anyone who may have seen either attack or who has any information to contact us on 101."

Shaz Saleem, chairman of the Dudley Taxi Association has hit out at the latest attack on a taxi driver in the borough, saying 'enough is enough'.

He said: "I'm really angry and the whole trade is up in arms. What will it take for these incidents to be taken more seriously? One of our drivers could get killed. We need to get more support from the police."

Now Simon says Dudley's got talent!



Cowell lookalikes Andy Monk and Andy Penfold give the dancing grannies a thumbs up

A CELEBRITY bash was brought to Dudley as not one but two Simon Cowell look-a-likes joined forces with comedy trio The Fizzogs in aid of Comic Relief.

Shoppers were urged to dance along with TV's Mr Nasty and his pals as a special video was shot in the town centre.

Dancing grannies The Fizzogs – Sue Hawkins, Jacky Fellows and Deb Nicholls – joined forces with Simon impersonators Andy Monk and Andy Penfold as part of a unique version of the song Simon Says.

Deb explained: "We were asked if we would like to be involved, so we jumped at the chance. There were the two Simon Cowells and then us dancing along."

"The plan is for a Comic Relief video to a pop song that is a bit like Simon Says but with the lyrics re-written."

"The people behind the Black Country Festival filmed it and will submit it to the TV show. Who knows, it may even be sent to Simon himself. The great thing was that everyone got involved in it."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Force get CCTV of derby violence

CCTV coverage of trouble at the Wolves vs Birmingham City derby has been passed on to police, Wolves have confirmed.

Wolves are continuing a probe into several crowd-related issues – including bottles, seats and coins being thrown – at the Friday night fixture.

Prior to the game the club installed a new and improved CCTV system, and a club boss said the enhanced quality of recordings has helped to identify around 30 examples of alleged anti-social behaviour which took place within Molineux.

The footage has now been passed on to West Midlands Police to review the evidence before deciding whether to proceed with further action.

More than 1,000 apply to be PCSOs

MORE than 1,000 people applied for just 150 community support officer jobs in the West Midlands.

The force opened PCSO recruitment in January and is looking to enlist 150 new Police Community Support Officers by 2020, alongside the recruitment of 800 officers and 200 specialist staff over the next three years.

Of the 1,014 applicants, 61 per cent were men while 31 of the potential recruits were aged over 50. Nearly 30 per cent of all applications were from black or minority ethnic communities. The force also worked with the Job Centre Plus.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



WANTED: School-run parents top crime list

I'VE never been to the borough of Havering, east London, but it sounds like a jolly good place to live.

While the rest of Britain struggles with anti-social behaviour and reduced policing budgets, it seems that Havering is doing rather well.

Indeed, crime is obviously so low, and the police and council coffers so awash with cash, that they have decided to crackdown on the No. 1 law-and-order issue in the borough: stopping parents from taking their kids to school by car.

No, not just parents parking on double yellow lines or causing an obstruction. All parents. Even the ones who take great care not to inconvenience others.

The local authority has declared "exclusion zones" around four primary schools in the borough, which will be patrolled by CCTV cameras to catch any parents dropping their children off in the vicinity of the school.

Police officers, traffic wardens and PCSOs will also be asked to keep an eye out, lest any crafty parents manage to give the cameras the slip. Letters have been sent out warning parents they risk a £1,000 fine and criminal record if they do the school run. Talk of a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

Now you might not be too concerned about what happens in east London, but it's amazing how this sort of lunacy can gain traction once the PC mob gets behind it. Don't be surprised if it reaches the Black Country a few years down the line.

Of course, at this point, somebody usually chips in "how would you like it if somebody blocked your driveway," and the answer is, I'm pretty sure I wouldn't.

But causing an obstruction is illegal anyway, and I'm sure nobody would object to the Boys in Blue or the council dealing with that. But for people who drive and park their cars responsibly, why is it anybody else's business how they take their kids to school?

No doubt there are some people who just don't like having other people's cars outside their homes at all, even if they are correctly parked. But that, I'm afraid, is what happens when you buy a house opposite a school. So you don't have to drive your children to school.

Of course, there are also the fanatics who believe the school run really is a crime, and love nothing more than local government flexing its muscles to "change people's behaviour." People who have no idea about the reality of being allocated a school two miles from where they live, and then having to drive another 10 miles to be in work for 8.30.

Incidentally, the orders have been brought in using a Public Spaces Protection Order Act, introduced by David Cameron's government to tackle serious crime such as drug dealing. I wonder how Mr Cameron's kids get to school.

As Churchill would have said, the vote was won



Prof Armand Leroi claims The Beatles weren't great influence on pop music



Roy Hattersley –comparison between Brexit and Henry VIII's Reformation



Winston Churchill – one vote can be sufficient to secure a majority

'Tyranny' – how can they justify slogan?

A NEW slogan – straight out of fairyland – has been coined by those disgruntled politicians who opposed, and still do so, the prospect of the UK pulling out of the European Union. It is: "The tyranny of the majority." Call me obdurate, or whatever you like, but I cannot for the life of me see how this mantra can be justified. A referendum was held and it was won by the Brexiteers. And as Sir Winston Churchill once said, if one vote will secure you a majority, then that is sufficient.

MEANWHILE, on the Sunday programme (Radio 4) Roy Hattersley made a neat comparison between Brexit and Henry VIII's Reformation nearly 500 years ago. He recalls that King Henry was irritated by the Pope, dissatisfied with the deal he was getting from Europe and was ruling over an insular race who 'consider ourselves better on our own'.

AND while so many commentators bang on about 'toxic Corbyn', few of them highlight the quiet appeal of Theresa May. She voted to stay in the EU but is now pushing ahead with Brexit because that is what the people wanted. You don't often meet a politician like that and I suspect the Tories under May won a by-election at Copeland that the Tories under Cameron would have lost.

IN a column for Waitrose magazine, John Humphrys refers to a 'hilarious exchange' between President Trump and Humphrys' old BBC colleague Jon Sopel. In truth, it was not so much hilarious as shot through with cold contempt on both sides. Sopel and Trump clearly have no time for each other.

SOMEBODY opens the wrong envelope in Hollywood and it dominates the world's TV, radio, newspapers and internet for the next two days. No, I don't get it either.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



PROFESSOR Armand Leroi is the evolutionary expert who claims The Beatles were not a great influence on pop music. He may well be right. The Fab Four were mould-breaking and magical, yet they were not widely imitated. But so what? Diamonds do not influence rubies but that doesn't make diamonds any less brilliant.

MEANWHILE, if you're old enough, cherish the memories. Professor Leroi is 52 so he could never have known that first semi-spiritual encounter with Sergeant Pepper, or the opening chords of Strawberry Fields Forever. We Sixties kids were transfixed by the genius of The Beatles who took us on a brief but unforgettable journey from Love Me Do to Let It Be. Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, yeah, yeah, yeah.

BY coincidence, on the day this week that Tunisian police were accused of cowardice during the Sousse attack which left 38 people dead, our own anti-terror cops were on exercise at the Merry Hill shopping centre near Dudley. What a contrast. In Tunisia, a rag-bag assortment of fainters and panickers took as long as possible to get to the scene. In England, a tough, disciplined squad toolled up like Robocop seemed utterly fearless in the face of the enemy. Or so we would like to think.

A READER wondered why the NHS paid more for paracetamol than the rest of us pay in supermarkets, so he wrote to the Department of Health. Here's part of the department's reply: "Comparison of the margin found in the margin

survey with the agreed target margin as part of the contractual framework determines whether there need to be any adjustments to payments made to community pharmacies." Sir Humphrey is alive and well.

"SURE, I know there are bigger issues, but microaggressions are a reality of the everyday existence of many people of colour." That anonymous email by a Cambridge student allegedly offended by "cultural misrepresentations" on his college menu, including Jamaican stew and Tunisian rice, will surely be recorded in the official history of the Snowflake Generation. How blissful your life must be if you have time to take offence at stew being mislabelled by the dinner ladies.

ONE account of this spat tells us that some students responded "with humour," including the one who texted: "Don't get me started on the Yorkshire puddings." But how can we be sure it is humour? For all we know, some Snowflake undergraduate from Harrogate could genuinely be sobbing him/her/gender-neutral self to sleep every night at the wicked misrepresentation of his county's delicacy. We live in fragile times.

INCIDENTALLY, the Cambridge college in question is Pembroke. How long before the Welsh take up arms over this geographical misappropriation of one of their towns?

MEANWHILE, back in cyberspace. . . . A reader tells me how his internet provider locked his account when he failed to change his password. And why did he fail to do so? Because the company's emails instructing him to change the password had all been dumped in his spam basket, by the company's own software. First, we put our letters in your bin. Then we punish you for not reading them.

TALKING POINT



I'd like to Believe in Better from advertisers

EVERY day, I'm being followed by someone, and it's getting a bit tedious. No, it's not through social media or, thankfully, in the street. The person I'm talking about is called Winston, as in the wartime prime minister whose voice is so closely linked with the principles of defiance you feel like standing to attention whenever one of his speeches is featured on TV or radio.

My 'stalker' answers to the surname Wolfe. . . the character who pops up in adverts putting the fear of God into everyone but who turns out to be a goody two-shoes. Trouble is, he's not really welcome in my world, as I just cannot get some of his spoken lines out of my head. "So, you're a landlord now; a property magnate" is permanently lodged in my brain.

In music terms, they're known as earworms: melodies and lyrics which can float away into the ether as quickly as they infiltrated your conscience. In the advertising world, they're obviously designed to catch the attention of the viewer or listener in the shortest time possible, and they're an absolute menace. And there is an array of catchphrases that could give Wolfe a run for his money.

Take, for instance, "For The Journey", "Play Makes It Possible", "Because You're Worth It", "Believe In Better", any one of which could be swirling around in your head right now.

It's not that these lack wit or imagination. Quite the contrary. Try these for size: "It Does Exactly What It Says On The Tin", "Every Little Helps", "I'm Lovin' It". All can be heard in all kinds of places up and down the country every day, having become convenient ways of saying something in just a few words.

Mind you, even in Adland, there can be some moments of confusion. On the radio, the line "You Do The Maths" rounds off its advert with a phrase which needs no explanation. But in the television version, it's . . . nowhere to be heard. The effect is like falling off the end of a supermarket conveyor belt.

Which brings me back to Winston Wolfe and that poor chap who just wants to get on with his decorating. Anyone with a keen ear for voices will have noticed that Mr Wolfe's "victim" sounds nothing like the bloke in the radio version. "It's just my wife's old flat," the DIY'er warbles, confirming the characters are one and the same, even if played by different actors.

It's enough to make anyone ring up a painter and decorator to get the job done quick without the tough-guy interruptions. But does any of this really matter? Perhaps when all of this gimmickry has run its course, there might be a return to those halcyon days when the likes of "Put a tiger in your tank", "The appliance of science" and "It's good to talk" were expressions that summed up an emotion ahead of the capabilities of the merchandise being promoted.

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Shameful proposals to cut leisure centres

HOW the Labour councillors justify their proposals to cut leisure centres is downright shameful. Councillor Khurshid Ahmed tells us that the latest shock is that the centres are losing money. My question would be 'where are the figures for investment over the last 10 years?'

The budget for advertising and promoting the centres is zero. The Halesowen Leisure Centre Customer Forum was told this ages ago. Whenever Labour shut down and cut they beat out the same old story and that is that everybody is losing money.

Councillor Ahmed tells us that leisure centres have a life span of 30 years but perhaps he should visit Dulwich where the leisure centre opened in 1892. It was refurbished in 2010 and is still going strong.

Or perhaps Buckingham Palace should never have been awarded £350-plus millions for rewiring and other improvements when really the building is too old.

The key is obviously investment and political will.

The councillor tells us if the proposals to shut three leisure centres and re-

place them with two goes ahead, then they'll have regular maintenance. This should already have been done for the leisure centres we have.

Finally, he says before the leisure centres will be closed then 'it will be years away and only after full consultation'. Is this meant to placate us? As for consultation, we are well aware in Halesowen of what this means. We were 'consulted' over the proposed closure of Hayley Green Hospital and despite massive opposition, it was closed.

CHAZ STOLL
Halesowen

Watch out for bus lane booby trap

I FULLY sympathise with the reader who was caught out by a bus lane on leaving Railway Drive in Wolverhampton.

This happened to me recently on turning into Pipers Row after a delayed train journey from London.

The time was 2am!

I had made exactly the same manoeuvre some months prior without being caught so can only assume Pipers Row had been designated bus lane status since.

I challenged the notice claiming that buses were not running at 2am in the morning!

This was dismissed by Wolverhampton Penalty Charge Services, stating that bus lane enforcement applied 24 hours. Logical or what?

Wolverhampton is fast becoming a bus lane booby trap for unsuspecting motorists, so enter at your peril!

ADRIAN DRING
Kingswinford

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Council's bad move over town museum

SO Councillor Khurshid Ahmed is very proud that Dudley's fountain has been named as the winner of the Victorian Society's Birmingham and West Midlands Conservation Award.

What he should be ashamed of, on the other hand, is the fact that he and the rest of the council allowed the closure of Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

The museum having gone from the centre of Dudley, is a very great loss to the town. Whoever thinks it is better to travel a mile out of town to see, and not all of, the wonderful items that were displayed in the beautiful building in Priory Street and St James's Road?

Access to the Archive building is not ideal and parking can be a headache.

MRS L SHELDON
Dudley

Lowest of the low in church raid

IN the Elizabethan era and into the 19th century, there were highwaymen and footpads. It didn't matter how big a thief these highway robbers were, or how poor the people were, they never stole from a church.

The doors of church buildings were always left open for this was a place of sanctuary. They knew they were safe and so were the valuables in that building.

Christ Church in Coseley was broken into, a sanctified building was ransacked and all the money and valuables taken by the lowest of the low.

The silver candlesticks and vases were not decoration but memories of families and friends of the congregation.

I am sure the clergy and members of the church will be praying not just for the return of the valuables and the memories but, for the forgiveness of those who have caused the damage.

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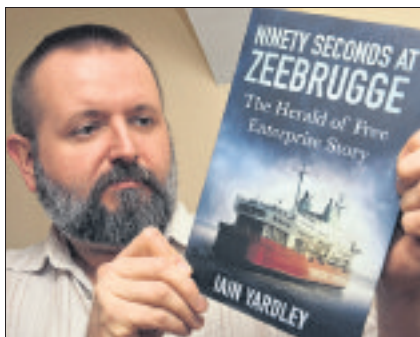
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Memories remain of ferry disaster



Ian Yardley, from Dudley, interviewed survivors for his book



The capsized ferry Herald of Free Enterprise

ANDY Bridge was settling down in the bar on the ferry home, sat opposite his friend Lawson Fisher. Part of a group of seven teenagers who regularly drank at a pub in Stourbridge, they were relaxing as they prepared to return from a day-trip to the Belgian port of Zeebrugge.

Seconds later, he would see something that would remain with him for the rest of his life.

As the ship capsized, he watched a young woman plunge from one end of the boat to the other, knocking his glasses off seconds before crashing through a window to an almost certain death in the icy waters.

"She was a very smartly dressed lady in a herringbone suite, probably aged in her mid-to-late 20s, and she fell the whole width of the boat backwards through a window below," said Andy, then 19 and living at Clent.

It was 30 years on Monday, March 6, since the car ferry MS Herald of Free Enterprise capsized minutes after leaving the harbour at Zeebrugge.

A total of 193 passengers and crew perished in the freezing waters of the North Sea.

And while the majority of the 539 people on board survived due to the heroic efforts of the rescue services, the figure does not reflect the number of lives torn apart by the disaster.

Sue Hames watched helplessly as her boyfriend Rob Heard was swept away after losing his grip on

MARK ANDREWS on the Zeebrugge disaster 30 years ago, which resulted in 193 deaths

a table. Soldier Brian Bunker saved several lives after refusing to be evacuated from the wreckage, only to discover that his wife Diane and baby daughter Nadine had been killed.

Ninety seconds was all it took for the Herald to capsize. From normality to unimaginable horror in less than the time it takes to boil a kettle.

This instantaneous nature of the disaster is captured by Black Country author Ian Yardley, who spoke to about 30 survivors over a seven-year period while researching his poignant book *Ninety Seconds at Zeebrugge*.

Iain, 44, from Lower Gornal, admits to feeling some guilt as he spoke to the survivors.

"Listening to and reading stories of what survivors and relatives went through was very difficult," he says. "I thought to myself 'who am I to intrude on their grief?' However, I feel that the people I spoke to wanted to tell their story. It was very difficult for them. I still feel very honoured and humbled."

Three people from the West Midlands lost their lives: Mr Heard, from Coventry, 66-year-old Ivy Jackson from Burton-upon-Trent, and 42-year-old lorry driver Tom Peach, from Rugeley.

Mr Peach, who lived in Speechly Drive, was on his way back from a delivery job in Germany. He had only been working for Garmans Transport in Kidsgrove, Staffordshire, for three weeks, after two years on the dole.

A friend said that he had been "over the moon" at finally landing a job.

The Herald had been due to depart at 7pm local time, but was five minutes late. At 7.24pm it passed the outer walls of the harbour, and four minutes later it capsized.

Andy Bridge's party was made up of Lawson Fisher, 16, from Stourbridge, brothers Ian and Nick Wood, also from Stourbridge, Andrew Dingley from nearby Hagley, Ian Moore, 18 of Netherton, Dudley, and Alan Cartwright, of Brierley Hill.

Vanished

Andy, now 49, remembers how Lawson quickly vanished, moments after being sat opposite him.

"I didn't see him until we got back to the hotel later," he says. "I was hanging onto the chair and the water came up to my waist, were were in complete darkness and it was very cold. I just held on."

Only a sandbank prevented the ship from sinking completely, and the drama happened so quickly there was no opportunity for Captain David Lewry to send out a distress signal.

Luckily, there was a dredger, Sandaras, working nearby, and noticing that all the Herald's lights had gone out, its captain alerted the port authority at Zeebrugge. Tugs were dispatched to surround the stricken ferry and a team of divers arrived by helicopter within 30 minutes. The Belgian Navy, on exercise in the area, also joined



Andy Bridge, originally from Clent, survived the disaster

in the rescue. Andy Bridge says: "They threw down rope ladders, but it was too cold for me to climb one. Someone came down and got me."

There were thought to be a total of 459 passengers and 80 crew members on board at the time.

Townsend Thoresen was then one of the biggest operators in the highly lucrative cross-channel ferry industry, and the Herald and its sister ships were crucial to that success.

However, it seems that the pressure to stay ahead in the race across the channel led to a culture of corner-cutting in the company. It had become customary for Townsend Thoresen ships to depart with the bow doors still open, allowing vehicle fumes to escape

the deck. These were normally shut just before the ship left the calm waters of the harbour.

Failed

However, assistant bosun Mark Stanley – exhausted after a gruelling shift – overslept and failed to hear the call to report for duty.

The company management was accused of presiding over a "culture of sloppiness".

Judge Sheen's inquiry led to captain David Lewry being suspended for 12 months, and chief officer Sabel for two years, but corporate manslaughter proceedings against the company failed. By the time of the disaster, Townsend Thoresen had just been taken over by P & O, leading to the fleet being hurriedly rebranded.

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Shearer becomes a patron of Astle charity



Ex-England striker Alan Shearer is the latest former footballer to support the Jeff Astle Foundation

FORMER England and Newcastle striker Alan Shearer has become a patron of the Jeff Astle Foundation.

The charity was set up in 2015, after the tragic death of Albion legend Jeff Astle in 2002 raised serious concerns about the health implications of heading footballs.

Shearer, who remains Premier League top scorer with 260 goals, is making a 60-minute BBC documentary called 'Dementia: Football's Silent Shame'.

Shearer, in his documentary, is investigating the latest scientific research from around the world into Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), the condition that killed the West Brom hero.

The Match of the Day pundit said: "I was aware of former football players, legends who I grew up watching, suffering from dementia. Could this affect football and footballers too? The more I read about it, the more I felt this was a subject that could no longer be ignored."

Shearer joins a list of former footballers and celebrities who have pledged their support, also including Gordon Banks OBE, Gary Neville and Frank Skinner.

Council to discuss free parking for trial period

FREE parking could be trialled across the Dudley borough in a pilot scheme to encourage residents to visit smaller towns for shopping.

It is hoped that the plans will boost the economy in Sedgley, Halesowen, Brierley Hill, Kingswinford and Dudley town centre, which face strong competition from the Merry Hill centre and Birmingham.

It has been recommended that if the free parking is successful, Dudley Council should consider rolling out two-hour free parking in council-owned car parks across the rest of the borough too.

Opposition councillor Paul Brothwood said: "UKIP have been calling for free parking for a number of years but unfortunately the Labour and Conservatives voted down our notion."

Businesses

"I think the trial, which will hopefully result in free parking, will benefit local businesses, which have had a difficult time."

"We have to get people back in our towns and free parking is a catalyst for that. We want to get shop-

By Lucy Thompson

pers back to our great towns and free parking is a good idea to start with."

Council officers are putting a report together on the issue.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We are currently exploring plans for a free parking pilot in Dudley borough following a motion at full council."

"We will have more details over the coming weeks once discussions have taken place with members."

A decision will be made in the coming weeks.

For many years traders have called for free parking so they can compete with the Merry Hill shopping centre, which has free spaces for 10,000 cars.

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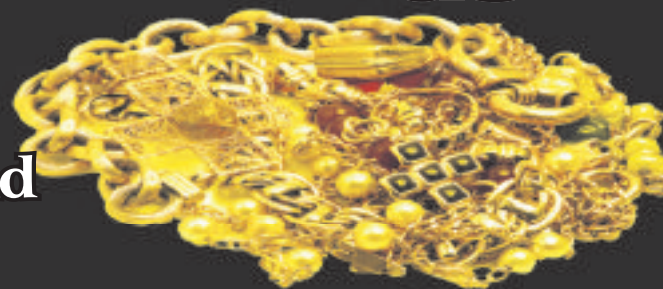
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Fire service opt for mayor boss

THE West Midlands Fire Authority is set to be taken over by the region's new mayor after bosses ruled against coming under the wing of the police and crime commissioner (PCC).

The authority could also combine with services in Staffordshire and Shropshire. Sandwell councillor and WMFA's chair John Edwards says merging could save money and improve standards.

The WMFA's committee voted unanimously to come under the governance of the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Mr Edwards said: "There was the option of working with the police and crime commissioner, but there is a concern that our budget could be hit as a result. We are also committed to maintaining the neutrality of the fire service. We are humanitarian and not law enforcement."

Joy as parents bring 28 weeks premature Savannah home

A COUPLE are celebrating having their baby home to Netherton after she was born 28 weeks premature and doctors had warned she may not survive.

Savannah Payne-Cooper was born on November 1, 2016, months before her due date, weighing just one pound five ounces.

After being told by doctors during a check-up that their baby was not developing as normal, Claire Payne-Cooper, a 34-year-old family support worker, and

her 35-year-old husband Robert, a retail supervisor, were dealt another blow when told there was a high likelihood they could lose their baby.

Little Savannah beat the odds and, despite still needing oxygen, she is now weighing four pounds and back at home in Lyndale Road, with her loving parents.

Claire said: "When we were told by a doctor that she may not make it, it absolutely destroyed us. It cut us in two but not long after that she was born."

"When the doctors told us that she was in good health despite

her size, we were delighted. She is back home now and it is wonderful. We were in hospital for 11 weeks, she came out just four days before her due date. She keeps us on our toes but we are so happy and she is getting stronger all the time."

Now the couple are planning to thank doctors, nurses and staff at Russells Hall Hospital, New Cross Hospital and Birmingham Women's Hospital by raising money at a fun day organised for April 2 at Brook Street Community Centre in Tipton. They have already raised £518.



Savannah with parents Claire and Robert

Charity says send fewer to prison

THE UK's prison crisis, highlighted by major problems at HMP Featherstone in South Staffs, can only be solved if fewer people are sent there, a prison charity says. Peter Dawson, the director of the Prison Reform Trust, was speaking in the wake of a damning report on the jail near Wolverhampton. He said fewer criminals should be locked up and those that are locked up should be so for a shorter time. This would allow prison officers to spend more time with inmates, helping them to reform.

He said: "The answers lie with reducing the number of prisoners and the amount of time spent behind bars. This way the money the prison service has can be spent on those who need it and prison officers can spend more time with inmates. Even if it is politically difficult, we can decide if more or less people are sent there."

A report on HMP Featherstone revealed that violence had got so bad that some prisoner preferred to stay locked in their cells.

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Pooches set tails wagging at Crufts



Former champion dog breeder Suzanne Conway, of Upper Gornal, with her Shih Tzu Horace

IT'S the world's biggest dog show - and it's back. Crufts - the Oscars of the canine world - returns this week, featuring cute, cuddly and sometimes bizarre looking dogs.

Dog lovers from across the Black Country will be flocking to Birmingham's NEC in their masses. Around 22,000 dogs from across the world, as well as 150,000 dog lovers, will turn out for the show, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary.

Hundreds of dog owners from across the Black Country and are putting the final preparations together ready for the prestigious four-day event, from Thursday to Sunday, which covers 25 acres at the NEC.

Shih Tzu breeder Suzanne Conway, of Upper Gornal, will be showing Horace and Stara, both nine months, and has high hopes the pair will follow her success in 2015 in the breeders competition.

ELC closes dedicated shop at Merry Hill

THE Early Learning Centre is closing down its shop at the Merry Hill shopping centre. The shop on the upper mall of the Brierley Hill mega-mall will shut its doors for the last time on Monday, March 13.

Company bosses say they 'regret' the store closure but put it down to a 'larger transformation' of their business.

The major Black Country shopping centre has also seen in recent months the closure of Sainsbury's and BH&S.

ELC is owned by Mothercare, which will still run a shop at the shopping centre, located on the lower mall.

A spokesman said: "We will be emailing our customers in the local area to advise of the changes and provide details of the nearest store, Mothercare Dudley, which houses an Early Learning Centre shop in shop."

"We greatly value all our customers in the area and would like to thank them for their continued loyalty and support for Early Learning Centre."

"Whilst we regret the closure of the store, it is part of a larger transformation plan for our business."

Constructing a bright future for apprentices

THIS image is a first look inside of the new £12m Advance II construction centre at Dudley College.

Now nearing the final months of completion it shows the inside of the towering steel-framed structure taking shape in Priory Road.

The building work is set to be completed by June and the centre has already secured 80 apprentices.

It will be the first of its kind specialising in the latest construction techniques, technology and off-site fabrication.

Describing the new centre as a 'once in a generation project', Dudley College principal Lowell Williams said: "This is ground-breaking innovation that we are at the forefront of. We need to train people who are working in construction as if they are digital engineers."

"We will be the first building in the country offering that on a large scale using brand new apprentice standards."

Funded

"It is also the biggest skills project that the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) have funded."

The new 37,000 square feet building will include workshops, classrooms and support facilities around a four-storey building called The Hanger.

There will also be a digital centre and other facilities include a carbon-friendly technology centre.

Mr Williams continued: "We have had a lot of support to make this happen. This is a once in a lifetime project for the Black Country."

"We currently have a 3D map of the site. You can go into the control room and put on a helmet and look around it as you were in and peel away the layers. It really is like something out of a sci-fi movie."

"As the construction industry mod-



Inside the new £12m Advance II construction centre at Dudley College

ernise's it will create many more manufacturing jobs. This is a real opportunity. We have already secured about 80 apprentices."

At the start of this year, it was also revealed that the college were going to be at the forefront of the new Dudley Academies Trust.

They will plough about half a million pounds into the trust to kick start the process of bringing together Castle High School, Hillcrest School and Community College, Holly Hall Academy and High Areal School, so

that they can to share resources and expertise.

After a recent visit Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "It's brilliant to see the new Advance II, the college's new Centre for Advanced Building Technologies being built. I've worked hard to support Lowell Williams and his brilliant work at Dudley College which has transformed the town with fantastic new facilities, bringing thousands of students to Dudley, boosting the town centre and strengthening our economy."

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Jenny's Ultra Suction Solution five years on

JENNY (not her real name) was afraid to laugh in public and tried to mask the problems with her false teeth by using copious amounts of fixative.

"In the end it was ridiculous, I was fighting a losing battle," she says. After seeing Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), she was prescribed the non-invasive Ultra

Suction dentures more than five years ago. Extolling their virtues, Jenny adds: "I am perfectly happy with the result and I now never have to think about my teeth." How do they work? A small diaphragm seals off a one-way valve under bite pressure, creating a 'sucking' vacuum between the denture and gums.



Jacqueline Turgoose – after a lifetime of teeth troubles she finally found a solution at North Street Dental and Implant Clinic

Final showdown

- Implants provide stabilisation solution
- Steak meal treat to celebrate new teeth
- 'Decision worth every penny'

AS a ten year old, Jacqueline Turgoose admits she was a bit of a tomboy with not a care in the world. But an incident with a cricket bat in a feisty game of rounders and subsequent trips to the 'horrible' school dentist appeared to change things forever.

Brought up on the outskirts of the market town of Wetherby, money was tight and her family just couldn't afford a proper rounders bat.

"So we used a cricket bat and I got too close to it and as it came back was hit in the mouth. I remember it well," she recalls.

The game where she played backstop and lost a front tooth is etched into her childhood memories.

"I had to go to the school dentist and he was horrible. I was just ten with a single tooth on a plate. It was so big you could tell it was false and it just didn't fit," says Jacqueline.

With the false tooth standing proud in her mouth she quickly became a target for bullying, though would-be tormentors soon met their match. "I was a toughie and having none of it," she recalls.

The cruel, verbal harassment "didn't last long" but the ill-fitting prosthetic was silently wreaking havoc in her mouth and her native teeth had become mobile and a lifetime's trouble began.

By the time she left school at 15 and started

The Wild West heroine not afraid to laugh



AS A Wild West drifter John Turgoose and his trusty woman (wife Jacqueline) can be spotted in period garb at Westerners' Association events all over the country.

Devoted fans of the Old West – a time in late 1800s' American history – they enjoy country and western music and the re-enactment of period characters. Recently, John, a member of Smethwick's Oak Ridge Club, organised a fundraising event for the British Legion Poppy Appeal and in a single night raised £1,100.

Authentic dress, a fast draw competition and live country music helped to coin in the cash. "It's great fun and we do a lot for charity," says Jacqueline, "and now I can laugh without putting my hand over my mouth."

work as a waitress, aggressive gingivitis (gum disease) had set in and she'd lost the whole of her upper arch of teeth.

The dentures still never fitted well. I could never eat an apple without cutting it up, meat was always hard to chew and when I laughed I instinctively put my hand in front of my mouth.

Teeth moved

"I also lost bottom teeth and hated going to the dentist. Truth is I was scared. The [false] teeth moved all the time and I'd go nowhere without the adhesive to stick them back in place. I didn't

go anywhere without it.

"If I went out for a meal – I eventually gave up going out to restaurants – I'd have to get up from the table two or three times and visit the ladies to replace the glue. It was that bad.

"If my husband wanted to go out for something to eat, I'd say 'let's stay at home and I'll cook something nice'."

A youthful 70-something-year-old, Jacqueline, an avid Westerners' re-enactment fan, has finally resolved the life-long problems that compromised spontaneity, diet and her smile.

Five years ago she read an article in her local

newspaper about the work of Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353, principal of both North Street Dental and Implant Clinic and the Denture Clinic.

The article focussed on stabilising dentures and the incredible difference just two implants could make on a lower over-denture.

"It offered me hope that something could be done to help and I kept the article all this time. I couldn't afford to have my teeth done then, but I came into a little bit of money," she recalls.

Husband John adds: "I asked her if she was going to put it into an ISA and she said 'no, I'm going to

get my teeth done.' It was a good decision and worth every penny." After an initial consultation with Steven, an appointment was made with practice implant dentist Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGD (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61575.

"I didn't know what to expect. I'd been told by an NHS dentist I'd lost too much bone in my jaw to have implants, but after Owain had seen me he said there was not a problem," says Jacqueline.

Traditional, high quality upper dentures were prescribed along with a removable lower over-denture, stabilised on two implants.

The results have been transforming. "They are the best teeth I've had in the whole of my life. The lower teeth are clicked on to the implants and the top fit perfectly," says Jacqueline.

Eat anything

Free from her denture adhesive, Jacqueline celebrated having her new teeth with a restaurant meal. "I had steak – I could never eat it – and it was wonderful," she recalls.

Her experience with the clinic? "Every member of staff was lovely. They were all so very kind," she adds.

And Jacqueline's teeth? "When I first saw them I cried, they were just so natural looking and I can eat anything now."

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Concern growing over bed blocking problem in hospital

BED blocking has reached an 'all-time high' at Russells Hall Hospital with more than 150 patients ready to be discharged taking up beds on the wards.

Health chiefs said the number of medically-fit patients unable to be shifted was 'unacceptable'. It comes during a winter when the hospital has been struggling to cope with 'unprecedented' pressure on A&E.

Russells Hall has been unable to discharge dozens of patients, who are either waiting to go home or to be moved into social care, meaning beds are not being freed up for people who need them. Hospital bosses said the situation was a major problem.

Debut novel inspired by war letters

AN AUTHOR who was inspired by family letters sent home from the Western Front will visit Halesowen Library later this month.

Jane Austin's debut novel 'News from Nowhere' is about the lives of the Roberts family from Bangor, North Wales and the impact of the First World War on them.

The Liverpool-born writer will visit the library on Wednesday, March 22 from 2pm to talk about how she was inspired to write her debut by a collection of family letters.

Her own grandmother, Elizabeth Dewi Roberts, first published the letters in 1983 in a slim volume titled 'Witness These Letters'.

The letters were written to family members in Bangor and vividly describe the torments of the trenches, as well as life as a prisoner of war.

Tickets for this event are £3 and include tea, coffee and cake. To book call (01384) 812980. The book is available to borrow from borough libraries.

The number of people no longer needing to be in hospital has shot up since Christmas with the most up-to-date total being 154.

The hospital has struggled to free beds throughout the winter. At the end of January Dudley Group NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, said 682 out of 723 beds were full, more than the 85 per cent which NHS safety guidelines state should be the maximum.

Warning

Record numbers have been filing into the A&E at the Dudley hospital.

Paul Bytheway, chief operating officer at the Dudley Group NHS Trust, said: "The number of delayed transfers of care continues to be a challenge for the trust, with the number of patients who are medically fit to leave hospital but unable to do so at an all-time high.

"This is due to the well-documented pressure across the whole health and social care system and an increase in the number of patients with complex needs who need ongoing support after discharge."

He added: "Over the last 12 months we have worked with the council to enable more people to be discharged and assessed in their own homes."

Woman's body found after alley blaze



Clyde Street in Cradley Heath where the woman's body was found after a fire in an alley between homes

A WOMAN was found dead after a fire in an entrance way between terraced houses in Cradley Heath.

West Midlands Police said that the body of a woman was found on Saturday in the alley, which leads to the side door of a home in Clyde Street.

The victim is believed to be a woman who was aged in her 30s. The death was not being treated as suspicious.

Two fire crews from Haden Cross and one from Oldbury fire stations attended the fire at 12.05pm.

Station Commander Dean Harris confirmed: "Unfortunately the fire resulted in fatal injuries".

Neighbour Michael Morgan said: "My thoughts are with all of her family."

Devastating

Sandwell's Cradley Heath and Old Hill councillor Caroline White said: "It's devastating to hear and its awful news for the family, my thoughts are with them."

Other residents expressed their concerns following the fatal fire.

One resident, who did not want to be named, said: "It's absolutely awful news. I'm not sure how it happened."

Another resident, who did not want to be named, said: "I saw a lot of police cars in the afternoon but didn't realise what had happened until one of the neighbours told me."

"I couldn't believe it. No one expects someone to die a stone's throw away from their house."

Robber fails in bid to get his sentence cut

A TEENAGER from Stourbridge who claimed he was bullied into holding up four corner shops with a replica pistol has failed in a bid to have time behind bars reduced.

Nathan Harper was just 16 when he terrorised staff at the shops in Stourbridge, Quarry Bank, Wollaston and Brierley Hill. He was locked up for 54 months at Wolverhampton Crown Court in September last year.

He was convicted of four counts of possessing an imitation firearm, three robberies and one attempted robbery.

Harper and two accomplices carried out the raids in just under three hours in September 2015, London's Appeal Court heard.

The now 18-year-old tried to force staff to hand over cash by brandishing an imitation pistol but the raiders fled empty-handed from all but one shop - Kingsway Stores in Wollaston - where they grabbed cigarettes off the shelves.

Harper, who can now be named after reaching adulthood, challenged his sentence, claiming it was too harsh. Harper, of Churchward Close, Stourbridge, was of previous good character and claimed he was 'bullied and intimidated' by the older pair.

Mr Justice Holgate, sitting with Lord Justice Treacy and Judge Griffiths-Jones, said: "There were severe aggravating factors in this case. We consider that the judge cannot be criticised for the sentence he imposed. The appeal is dismissed."

Wuthering around at Netherton Arts Centre

EMILY Bronte's Wuthering Heights is being performed at Netherton Arts Centre until Sunday.

Adapted by Charles Vance from the classic novel, it is staged by Dudley Little Theatre. Tickets are £8 (£7 concessions), on the door or from www.dudleylittletheatre.org website.

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Visitor accolade for the canal and tunnel trust

DUDLEY Tunnel and Limestone Mines have received a accolade as part of VisitEngland's Visitor Attraction Quality Scheme.

The popular Birmingham New Road attraction received the 'Best Told Story' award.

Jeff Luesley, Chairman of Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust, which runs the attraction, said: "We are delighted to have received this accolade from VisitEngland.

Cavern

"Our regular daily 45-minute boat trips bring the history of the mines to life with on-board commentary, a music and light show in the Singing Cavern, a video show in Little Tess Cavern explaining how limestone was formed and mannequin displays in Hurst Cavern depicting miners working during the 18th century.

"It is thanks to decades of restoration and development work by the Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust that this wonder of 18th century engineering, with a history dating back 428 million years, welcomes more than 100,000 visitors a year to enjoy boat trips into the tunnel system."

At Dudley Tunnel and Limestone Mines' £3 million visitor centre, named The Portal, as well as embarking on their boat trip visitors can enjoy an interactive exhibition in the Bia Award Gallery. They can also browse in the Trust's gift shop or enjoy waterside dining in The Gongoozler restaurant, which gets its unusual name from the word that means a person who enjoys watching activity on the canals.

The VisitEngland accolades are allocated through a scoring system based on an annual assessment.



Trust chairman Jeff Luesley showed the Princess Royal around the attraction last year

Government asked to give Dudley a fair deal

DUDLEY Council has hit out at the Government claiming that it is being unfairly treated over funding.

Councillors are officially calling for a fair deal for the town with a motion at the full council meeting.

After seeing its funding plummet by £76 million since 2010, angry councillors from the ruling Labour group declared that enough is enough and gave stark warnings about further cuts if funding levels from Westminster continue to be slashed. Opposition Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley dismissed the move as political grandstanding

There were also claims that Tory strongholds in the south were not experiencing the same level of cuts.

Councillor Asif Ahmed, ward member for St James's, who brought the motion, said: "This council has done the best it possibly can with the financial resources available to it. If the Government continues in this manner we will soon be in a position where we can only provide statutory services." Council leader Pete Lowe said: "The truth is that Dudley is being subjected to much deeper cuts than elsewhere across the country."

New speed cameras on order for busy route

SPEED cameras will be installed on a notorious stretch of the Birmingham New Road within weeks following calls for action by road safety campaigners.

Highways bosses revealed cameras had been ordered and would go up on the bend near Woodcroft Avenue, on the Dudley and Tipton border, near the busy junction with Priory Road.

Speed cameras have been switched off in the Black Country for the past four years but Dudley Council has made the Birmingham New Road a special case due to persistent calls to improve safety on the route used by thousands of drivers every day.

Dudley councillor Ken Finch has been among those campaigning for measures to cut speeding and said he was delighted cameras would be coming back.

Old speed cameras remain up on the road to act as a deterrent but have been switched off since 2013.

Listening

Councillor Finch said: "It has taken a lot to get this far. This is what it is all about, trying to save lives and in my opinion this shows officers have got to start listening to councillors and people who live in these dangerous areas.

"Hopefully these speed cameras will make drivers think twice."

The 40mph Birmingham New Road was recently named among the top five roads in the Black Country where drivers had been caught speeding dur-

By Richard Guttridge

ing 2015/16. A total of 428 motorists were caught out by mobile police cameras with the fastest clocked at 92mph.

Concerns have also been aired about drivers leaving the Foxyards estate who have to pull out onto the Birmingham New Road.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said speeding on the road was a 'real problem'.

He added: "We've been working hard to improve road safety on the Birmingham New Road so I'm delighted to hear that our campaign has paid off, but credit is really due to residents who organised the petition and have been pressing the council to make these improvements.

"I think this shows what we can achieve when we work together."

Dudley Council's environment boss, Councillor Hilary Bills said: "We have ordered these speed cameras. All we are waiting for is for the company to provide them.

"They are ordered and I hope it will be very soon."

On the run for St Patrick's Day fun

ORGANISERS of the big St Patrick's Day festival and parade in Birmingham are adding a fun run to the Irish festivities in the second city.

As part of the Birmingham St Patrick's Festival and Parade on March 12, the Emerald Mile is set to start at 10am outside South and City College.

It is the first time that the run has been added to the programme of events to mark St Patrick's Day.

Supporters, including Event Signs and Motorpoint, have pledged their support to the Emerald Mile event which will see up to 250 people take on a two-mile course along the parade route to raise money for charity.

The main parade will take place along Digbeth High Street between noon and 2pm. Birmingham's St Patrick's Parade goes back to 1952 and was the first in Britain. The parade has taken place in Digbeth since 1996 and increasingly mirrors the multicultural nature of Birmingham.

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COMPETITION

TODAY there are more people looking for a home in the West Midlands than there are homes to choose from.

As monthly demand rises by more than 20 per cent The National Home-building & Renovating Show returns with its largest exhibition ever at Birmingham's NEC from March 23-26. The show will have more than 500 exhibitors, 16 free daily seminars and 35 masterclasses over four intense days. And not only do our readers have a chance to win a pair of tickets, with 20 pairs up for grabs, but we are also offering an amazing first prize, a set of Lithe Audio Bluetooth Ceiling Speakers & Passive Speaker Kits worth £269.99.

Experience

The show, sponsored by Birmingham for the first time by Everest Home Improvements, a British company with over 50 years' experience in double glazed windows, conservatories, doors and more, will host over 15 resident property experts, some of whom are regular TV presenters.

They will be on hand to discuss all renovating and building queries alongside companies which will introduce their latest services and products from industries including design, architecture, financial services, kitchens, bathrooms, doors and windows, ventilation, heating, planning permission and much more.

There will be advice and guidance, and real case studies present to talk about their experiences with consumers who are facing similar challenges throughout all stages of their projects. On Saturday, visitors will have the opportunity to hold 15-minute consultations with celebrity experts who star in their favourite TV property



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programmes. Charlie Luxton, sustainable architectural designer currently presenting 'Building the Dream' on More 4, will talk about eco living, new architectural ideas and homes of the future. Julia Kendall, interior design expert for BBC's 'DIY SOS', ITV's '60 Minute Makeover' and 'Rebuild Our Home', will give inspiration to those revamping their properties.

The show's resident DIY Doctor, Mike Edwards, will be hosting demonstrations to inspire visitors to take matters into their own hands and address some of the key aspects of their projects without the help of a contractor.

He will prepare tutorials on topics from installing insulation to coating walls, which will help transform a home into a better place to live and encourage both men and women to roll up their sleeves, which will ultimately save time and money. For self-builders the Advice Centre is a hub for impartial guidance.



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Councillor kicks off special activities



Councillor Ann Shackleton with Stephen Talbot and disability co-ordinator Michael Bott at Portway Lifestyle Centre

ARCHERY, gentle exercise and multi-sports were on the timetable for people with disabilities during a visit by Sandwell's social care boss to Portway Lifestyle Centre in Oldbury.

The centre in Newbury Lane opened its doors to their special guest, Councillor Ann Shackleton, to show the council's disability day opportunities service in action. Councillor Shackleton, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for social care, went along to see for herself the activities on offer.

She said: "This service helps people with disabilities get to know others, gain confidence and become as independent as possible. This isn't a traditional disability day service. It involves Sandwell Leisure Trust and is held in an award-winning building and makes sure being inclusive is a priority in a fun environment. The aim is to reduce loneliness as well as maintain and improve health."

For more information on the council's disability day opportunities service, contact Michael Bott, disability co-ordinator at Portway Lifestyle Centre, on 0121 543 4809.

The closure of leisure centres up for debate

A PETITION opposing closure of three leisure centres in Dudley borough has reached its deadline, after being signed more than 4,000 times.

Campaigners to save the existing centres – in Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen – said that they would push for a full council debate on the matter.

Dudley Council wants to demolish Halesowen Leisure Centre, Dudley Leisure Centre and Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge, and replace them with two new centres, probably in Dudley and Lye.

The council say this will save money as the older centres will be expensive to update.

Support

Development boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said it was likely to be three years before the plans came to fruition.

After gaining 4,491 signatures, former councillor and head of the Save Our Leisure Centres group, Tracy Wood said: "Quite a few councillors have pledged their support. People from the community are finally having their voice heard."

By Lucy Thompson

The council will debate the issue in a full council meeting.

A feasibility study is under way and a public consultation will follow.

Dudley Council leader Councillor Pete Lowe said: "Is leisure provision in Halesowen an option? Absolutely."

But he hit back at critics from the opposition Conservative group, adding: "What you can't do is argue one week for reduced council tax and then argue the next week for additional leisure provision."

Dudley Council recently revealed that the borough's leisure centres made a loss of more than £5 million over three years and needed up-grading.

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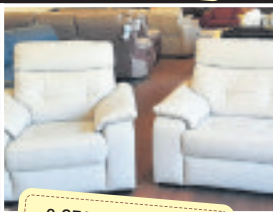
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City arts schools stage merger

TWO major arts schools in Birmingham are set to merge in a move bosses hope will produce a single world-class hub for developing the next generation of performers.

Birmingham Conservatoire and Birmingham School of Acting will join forces in a move which will see both the music and acting arms of Birmingham City University unite as Birmingham Conservatoire.

The merger coincides with the opening of a £57 million new home for Birmingham Conservatoire on the university's city centre campus this year.

Professor David Roberts, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Design and Media at Birmingham City University, said: "This merger emphasises the growing need for fluidity between disciplines – musicians able to draw on performance skills or promote their work across digital channels, or actors and set designers delivering performances where music and musicality are essential."

New employment for former wine bar



The former wine bar is to become an employment agency

A FORMER wine bar in Dudley which has stood in a state of disrepair will be turned into an employment agency creating about 15 jobs.

Merlin's wine bar, Wolverhampton Street, will be repaired under the scheme that was approved at a Development Control Committee meeting last week.

The town centre building has been boarded up for some time. The plans were put forward by council bosses in a bid to revitalise the building.

Councillor Kieran Casey, vice-chairman of the committee, said: "I think its a really good application given the current condition it will be a vast improvement on what is there at the moment. For employability and skills opportunities I very much welcome this."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "We are in discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund to look at how this work might be funded and we hope to know more in the summer."

The building is in the town centre's conservation area.

Police spark anger with mutilation tweet

WEST Midlands Police has been widely criticised for suggesting that parents involved in female genital mutilation (FGM) on their children should not be prosecuted.

The force said in a tweet that education and safeguarding vulnerable girls was its priority in FGM cases, adding that prosecuting parents was unlikely to benefit youngsters.

The comments sparked a furious response from UKIP health spokesperson Suzanne Evans branding the force an 'utter disgrace'. UKIP Euro MP Bill Etheridge, a Sedgley councillor, called for an overhaul of West Midlands Police policy. The tweet – later deleted – had originally appeared in response to a comment about TV drama Call The Midwife, which featured a portrayal of an FGM victim.

Mr Etheridge, a West Midlands MEP and Dudley councillor, said: "Effectively this is one of the worst crimes in our society and one of the least detected. It is the duty of the police to take action."

New committee will focus on tackling anti-social behaviour

COUNCIL leaders will set up a new committee aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour, which they say is 'on the rise' across Dudley borough.

The focus will be on 'nuisance neighbours' and anti-social behaviour in residential neighbourhoods.

The panel will hear first-hand accounts from police officers and the council's anti-social behaviour team.

Councillor Dean Perks, who will chair the committee, said its aim was to improve the council's approach

of tackling the issue and to improve co-operation with police.

The committee will be formed from the existing Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, which Councillor Perks also chairs.

He said: "Anti-social behaviour is a problem in Dudley, and I think it is slowly on the rise.

Better

"We will be focusing more around nuisances neighbours and neighbourhoods. We want to make Dudley a better place for residents to live."

The move has been welcomed by Dudley Council's leader, Councillor

Pete Lowe, who felt the committee could prove 'effective' in tackling anti-social behaviour.

"I am happy that we can work in partnership with the police and other agencies to make sure we are as committed as possible to tackling anti-social behaviour," he said.

Committee members will hear from police officers, community leaders, from the council's anti-social behaviour team and councillors.

Councillor Perks said: "The idea will be to collect information and then we will make recommendations."

The first committee meeting will take place on March 28.



Councillor Dean Perks

Get low-down on high rises

DUDLEY Council tenants who live in high rise properties are invited to discuss issues relating to their estates at a dedicated meeting this month.

The High Rise Living Forum meets on a regular basis and is part of the council's Love Your Community campaign to engage and consult with residents about what matters to them.

The group discusses many issues relating to living within a high rise block and considers improvements.

The next meeting is set for Thursday, March 16, at the Saltwells Education Centre in Netherton, from 7pm until 8.30pm. Tea and coffee will be served from 6.30pm.

Anyone who wishes to attend should call (01384) 815168 to ensure it is still taking place, as it may be subject to change.

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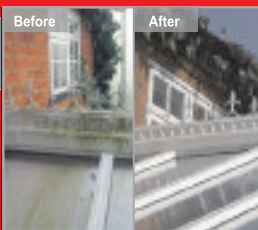
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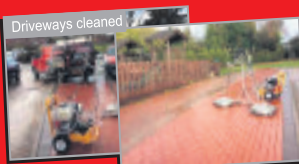
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Upbringing no bar on comic licensee

There's a fine line between art and life. And while Al Murray is not really a pub landlord – he's actually a culturally rapacious, successful comic with a large house in Chiswick and a collection of Action Man-style dolls of people like Saddam Hussein and Winston Churchill – his character bears an uncanny resemblance to those who are perfectly, frighteningly real.

Take this, for instance, spoken in character: "Of course, the reason they are coming here is because this is the greatest country in the world. The only way to stop them is for a government to change that and make things a whole lot worse. Look no further. However, in the meantime we brick up the Channel Tunnel. With British bricks. Probably have to get some Poles in to do it. Common sense."

Murray is currently on tour in a post-Brexit, post-fact world. His new show is called Let's Go Backwards Together and it's been acclaimed by critics as his best. While Murray's character is resolutely commonsensical, the performer himself was educated at Bedford School and Oxford University and his ancestors include the 3rd Duke of Atholl, a bishop, an ambassador and William Makepeace Thackeray, the 19th century novelist best known for his satirical works, particularly Vanity Fair, was his great-great-great grandfather.

EXASPERATED

Those impeccable credentials, however, mean nothing in the cauldron of stand-up. For Murray knows better than anyone: if you get a line wrong, there's nowhere to hide.

"I think that what some people don't realise is that there are gradations of posh. I have cousins who went to Eton. I think [people who went to] Eton, Harrow, they're properly posh. But my Dad worked for British Rail for 40 years, my mother worked for the Citizens Advice Bureau in Milton Keynes.

"We're resolutely downwardly mobile. With showbusiness, you can be as posh as you like, but if you're not delivering, then you won't get on. So I don't get annoyed, I'm just exasperated that it's supposed to say anything about me at all. I went to private school because my grandfather left some money for a grandson.

"I do accept that I am from a privileged background. I was lucky I went to private school. I know all those things. But I don't think they explain anything about me at all.

"There's an interesting idea about art right now – 'you're not allowed to imagine' seems to be the argument. So I'm not allowed to imagine what people might think, or send up how other people might think. That's an argument against art. That's an argument against creativity."

Murray's tour is under way around the UK and he'll return to Birmingham on May 22 to headline the city's REP theatre.

Murray added that his new show takes a humorous approach to



A world apart – comic Al Murray and his Pub Landlord character



the challenging era in which we live. "We live in troubling times. Europe. The NHS. Whatever the hell is going on in the Middle East. The gathering storm of fortnightly bin collections? Who knows where it will all end?"

Meanwhile, on the comedy scene this week, Jerry 'The King' Lawler, the King of Memphis and a WWE Hall of Famer, will bring his spoken word show to Birmingham's Glee Club on Wednesday. The live, spoken word show will feature as many tales and experiences from 40 years on the road as it's possible to cram into one evening. Fans can look forward to a 'witty, articulate and impassioned'

You aren't allowed to imagine now – that's an argument against creativity.

evening and they will also be able to ask their own questions. Comedy will also be in store at the Glee Club tonight and tomorrow with a line-up of Paul Thorne, Christian Schulte-Loh, Carl Donnelly and Tom Lucy. Thorne has been described by The Guardian as a 'must-see comedian' who regularly performs at The Comedy Store and has taken his unique brand of edgy and provocative topical gags, on the spot improvisation and surreal comedy songs as far afield as Dubai, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, China and Japan.

Lucy, meanwhile, has been described by Harry Hill as being an outstanding young comic who is headed for great things. In the last year, he has supported the likes of Jack Whitehall, Russell Kane, Paul Chowdhry, Simon Amstell, Russell Howard and Seann Walsh. He is also the youngest comedian ever to play professionally at The Comedy Store.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

Dream part – Liam Sargeant



Role model – Elvis Presley



Just Grand – music by ‘King’ and Liam is ready to reign

HE grew up on Elvis music and now Wolverhampton student Liam Sargeant is All Shook Up having landed his dream role singing songs made famous by ‘the King’.

Liam will feature in the lead role of Chad when the rock ‘n’ roll musical is staged at Wolverhampton’s Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, March 18.

Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company (MUSCOM) will be celebrating the music of Elvis Presley in the new show set in small town America in 1955, as a musical revolution is about to happen. Fledgling actor and singer Liam has had to juggle rehearsals with studying English language

and English literature at Oxford University. He said: “I’m commuting as many times as I can. Over Christmas we got as much done as we could and that was really good. There was quite a bit of time so we managed to set the whole show. But then it was time to go back to university and so it’s not completely straightforward.”

As Chad, Liam plays a guitar-playing roustabout who rides into a square little town. Suddenly, everyone and everything changes. Inspired by and featuring the songs of Elvis Presley, this lip-curling, hip-swivelling musical comedy is based on Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night and will have fans rockin’ out of their Blue Suede Shoes.

The classic hits will include Heartbreak

Hotel, Jailhouse Rock, Can’t Help Falling In Love and many more.

Liam has been a regular with local amateur dramatics companies since a child. He said: “I’ve been singing my whole life and gradually started acting and dancing too. It’s just something I’ve always done. I’ve always been involved in musical theatre.

“I’ve been part of lots of different companies in the Midlands. I’ve played with MUSCOM and both the West Bromwich and Bilston amateur operatic societies. MUSCOM are great. I really enjoy being part of the team and I think this is my fourth show with them.”

Nothing beats coming home, however, and the Wolverhampton performer always enjoys playing at the Grand.

Shirley comedy proves to be ultimate escape

It’s been 31 years since Willy Russell’s heart-warming comedy, Shirley Valentine, took the world by storm.

It told the story of a Liverpool housewife whose kids have left home and she makes egg and chips for her husband every day, while talking to the wall. Then she escapes... to Greece.

The show was adapted into an Oscar-nominated film, starring Pauline Collins and Tom Conti, and now Jodie Prenger (pictured) is starring in the first major revival of this national treasure, which continues a week-long run at Birmingham’s New Alexandra Theatre until Saturday.

Jodie found fame on Andrew Lloyd Webber’s TV show to find a star in I’d Do Anything and was subsequently cast as Nancy in his 2009 production of Oliver!

Her recent theatre credits have included UK tours of Camelot, Tell Me On A Sunday and One Man, Two Guvnors, and a stint last festive season at the Birmingham Hippodrome panto.

SURPRISES

Then gritty Irish soul musical The Commitments, based on Roddy Doyle’s book, which was also made into a movie by Alan Parker, is staged at the Alex from Monday to Saturday, March 18.

The story about the ups and downs of a Dublin R&B band includes former Coronation Street star Kevin Kennedy.

On adapting the story for the stage, Roddy Doyle says: “I hadn’t planned to write it myself but then I did. I really enjoyed it.

We had met with a number of impressive

writers but I found I was answering all the questions the producers and I were asking them.”

On selecting the songs, Doyle says: “I wanted to go for well-known songs, but also there to be a few surprises in there.

“Soul often isn’t about the song itself, it’s about the way it is sung or how it’s interpreted. The songs were chosen because they help tell the story.”

The show is not only packed with great songs but is also laugh out loud funny.

Doyle adds: “It was always going to be a comedy. It’s about a band so it doesn’t touch on life or death, you can say ‘music is life and death to me’, but it’s not.”

There is musical nostalgia coming to the Alex soon with You’ve Got A Friend: The Music of James Taylor and Carole King on March 21 and One Night of Elvis with Lee ‘Memphis’ King on March 23.



Will You join 80s star Hazel at the Robin 2?

Eighties New Wave star Hazel O’Connor, who found fame in the film Breaking Glass, will perform in Bilston next Wednesday.

The singer-songwriter, from Coventry, recently celebrated the 35th anniversary of the film whose soundtrack, including Will You and Eight Day, went platinum and reached number five in the British album charts.

She will be joined on The Robin 2 stage by Clare Hirst, who has played sax with the Bellestars, Communards and David Bowie, and keyboards player Sarah Fisher who performed with the Eurythmics.



Nostalgia that promises fans a Wail-ers of a time

More eighties nostalgia at Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday with a line-up including Paul Young, Toyah, China Crisis and, from America, Martika.

Yes fans will be out in force at Symphony Hall on Monday for a sold-out gig by ARW, which is (Jon) Anderson, (Trevor) Rabin and (Rick) Wakeman. Coinciding with One Love: The Bob Marley Musical at Birmingham Rep (until April 8), Marley’s former musicians The Wailers have a one-off gig at Birmingham O2 Academy on Wednesday including originals Aston ‘Familyman’ Barrett, Tyrone Downie, Junior Marvin, Donald Kinsey and Earl ‘Wya’ Lindo.



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Mon 20 Mar	5 Rhine Valley Superdeal	£199
Fri 24 Mar	4 Ostend Inclusive Weekend	£189
Fri 24 Mar	4 Ostend Weekend Superdeal	£149
Fri 24 Mar	4 Paris Weekend Superdeal (seal)	£159
Fri 24 Mar	4 Disneyland Spectacular at Dream Castle (seal)	£339
Fri 24 Mar	4 Disneyland Spectacular at The B&B Hotel (seal)	£289
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Sat 22 Apr	Colswold Wartime 1940's Special	£89
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Sat 6 May	York & Emmerdale Village Tour	£99
Sat 6 May	The London Motor Show (seal)	£99
Sat 13 May	Hobbycrafts, Stitch & Sew - Live!	£79
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Sat 15 Apr	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
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Sat 29 Apr	Islands at Chester Zoo & Llangollen Cruise	£99
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NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

CHOICE



Geri Horner

Railway Nation: Across Britain in a Day (BBC2, 9pm)
Geri Horner follows in the footsteps of Tom Jones, Keith Richards, Boy George and Jazzie B by revisiting the decade that has defined her life and career to date. For Geri, that decade is the 1990s, when she shot to international stardom as Ginger Spice. At the height of her Spice Girls fame, Geri helped to ensure 'Girl Power' dominated the 'Cool Britannia' scene with her iconic Union Jack dress, and here she reflects on how a working-class girl from Watford came to symbolise the gender politics of a turbulent era. She also discusses the key political and social moments of the '90s, including Nelson Mandela's release, the birth of New Labour and the launch of the World Wide Web.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Mary Berry Everyday. (R) 12.00 Football Focus – FA Cup on the Road. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Bargain Hunt. 2.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 2.45 Film: Kung Fu Panda. (2008) 4.10 Final Score. 5.10 Celebrity Mastermind. (R) 5.40 BBC News. 5.50 Regional Programme.
6.00 Pointless Celebrities. Fish, Barbara Dickson, Nick Heyward, Toyah Wilcox, Heather Small, Marj Wilson, Jessica Taylor and Kelli Young take part in a music industry-themed edition of the unorthodox quiz. (R)
6.45 Let's Sing and Dance for Comic Relief. The next round of the celebrity talent contest sees the stars of Casualty and Holly City, The Chasers, James and Ola Jordan, and EastEnders' Danny-Boy Hatchard take to the stage.
8.00 Who Dares Wins. Game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
8.40 Casualty. Robyn takes matters into her own hands as David's manic behaviour gives his colleagues cause for concern. Meanwhile, the gang prepares to throw a 60th birthday party for Duffy.
9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes is excited about Rory and Dino's big day, until she meets their flamboyant wedding planner, while Father Damien raises concerns about the ceremony. (R)
10.00 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.20 Match of the Day. Highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which included Bournemouth v West Ham United at the Vitality Stadium and Hull City v Swansea City at the KCOM Stadium.
11.05 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the day's opening sixth-round fixtures, which were Middlesbrough v Manchester City, and Arsenal v Lincoln City.
11.35 This Country. The mockumentary continues, as Kerry's dad Martin is accused of being a "Peeping Tom".
12.00 Line of Duty. (R) 2.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. 2.05 BBC News.

BBC2

**6.35 Film: Yellow Canary. (1943) 8.10 Film: The Happiest Days of Your Life. (1950) 9.30 Coast. 10.00 Natural World. (R) 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 12.00 Two Greedy Italians: Still Hungry. (R) 1.00 The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) 1.30 Film: The Red Shoes. (1948) Powell and Pressburger's drama, starring Moira Shearer. 3.40 Gardeners' World. (R) 4.10 University Challenge. (R) 4.40 Only Connect. (R) 5.10 Flog It! (R)
6.00 Natural World. The natural history documentary follows the work of tough Australian Chris "Brolga" Barnes, who featured in his own BBC Two documentary series a couple of years ago, and has dedicated his life to rescuing and raising orphaned kangaroos in the outback near Alice Springs. This two-part film follows Brolga as he expands operations by opening his doors to a whole new bunch of animals, including a trio of camels, a southern hairy-nosed wombat and three emu chicks, as well as building a wildlife hospital. (R)
7.00 Natural World. Part two of two. The new animals are proving quite a handful, and with Brolga on crutches after a run-in with Roger the kangaroo, there is not much he can do at the moment. (R)
8.00 Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands. Paul Murton heads to the northernmost spur of Skye, the Trotternish Peninsula, which has a distinct identity of its own – almost as if it were an island within an island.
8.30 Dad's Army. The bumbling platoon boosts its fighting strength by acquiring an armoured car. Classic comedy, starring Clive Dunn and Arthur Lowe. (R)
9.00 Geri's 1990s: My Drive to Freedom. Geri Horner shares her memories of the 1990s, when she first achieved international stardom as Ginger Spice, and considers some of the key political and social moments of the era.
10.00 Live at the Apollo. Glaswegian comedian Frankie Boyle takes to the stage at London's Hammersmith Apollo, and introduces rising stars Jack Carroll and Holly Walsh. (R)
10.45 Film: LA Confidential. (1997) Thriller set in the 1950s, with Russell Crowe.
12.55 Taboo. (R) 2.55 Film: Rabbit Hole. (2010) 4.20 This is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockor Street. 6.10 Bottom Knockor Street. (R) 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Sooty. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.00 Oddbods. (R) 7.05 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! 8.30 Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. 9.05 Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) 9.25 Alphabetical. (R) 10.20 All Star Family Fortunes. (R) 11.05 The Voice UK. (R) 12.25 ITV News; Weather. 12.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v France (Kick-off 1.30pm). 3.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Scotland (Kick-off 4.00pm).
6.30 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.45 ITV News; Weather.
7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The popular duo's Saturday evening variety show continues, as the pair bring back Singalong Live for the first time this series, and invite the newly reunited 1990s dance-pop outfit Steps to do the honours. Stephen Mulhern hits the streets to give members of the public the chance to win a big-money prize in In For a Penny, and the plot thickens as Emilia Fox continues to chase the mystery thief in The Missing Crown Jewels. Plus, Ant and Dec themselves star in the End of the Show Show.
8.30 The Voice UK. The remaining contestants face the third of five, live knock-out rounds, as William's roster of hopeful stars go head-to-head in a battle for survival. Presented by Emma Willis.
9.45 ITV News; Weather.
10.05 Lethal Weapon. When Riggs and Murtaugh respond to a noise complaint, they are drawn into a case involving illegal gun-runners and advanced military technology that involves Riggs personally. (R)
11.00 Film: Rambo: First Blood Part II. (1985) John Rambo returns to the jungles of Vietnam on a mission to rescue American POWs and exact a violent revenge. Action adventure sequel, with Sylvester Stallone and Richard Crenna.
12.50 Schofield's South African Adventure. (R) 1.25 Jackpot247. 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R)**

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Mobil 1 The Grid. 6.45 The King of Queens. (R) 7.10 The King of Queens. (R) 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.55 The Simpsons. (R) 11.25 The Simpsons. (R) 12.00 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) 1.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 1.30 Come Dine with Me. (R) 2.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 2.30 Come Dine with Me. (R) 3.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 3.35 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) 4.35 Location, Location, Location. (R) 5.35 Channel 4 News.

6.05 Dogs Behaving Badly. Leading dog trainer Graeme "the Dogfather" Hall invites viewers to gain an insight into his work, which sees him tackle troublesome dogs – and their owners.

7.00 Crufts 2017. Clare Balding presents live coverage from the NEC in Birmingham, where the the penultimate day of Crufts is under way. Today's tentpole events include Agility and Flyball contests, and judging of the Gundog Group. "Supervet" Professor Noel Fitzpatrick is in the studio discussing scientific advances in canine health, and answers viewers' questions. He also puts his skills as a trainer to the test with an agility demonstration. Plus, Clare meets the Rev Kate Bottley from Gogglebox, who is at the show representing the Retired Greyhound Trust.

9.00 Film: Room. (2015) Premiere. A woman who has been held captive for years lives in a single room with her son, who has never experienced life beyond its walls. She resolves to make sure he has a complete and fulfilling life, but when they finally escape, she faces the challenge of helping him cope with a world he has no experience of. Drama based on Emma Donoghue's novel, starring Oscar-winning Brie Larson, with Jacob Tremblay, Joan Allen and William H Macy.

11.20 Film: The Adjustment Bureau. (2011) Sci-fi thriller, starring Matt Damon and Emily Blunt.

1.15 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) 2.05 Hollyoaks. 4.10 Shipping Wars UK. (R) 4.55 Four in a Bed. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 10.30 Access. 10.35 Benefits Britain: Me & My 14 Kids. (R) 11.30 Benefits: On the Yorkshire Dole. (R) 12.25 Benefit Beauty Queens. (R) 1.25 Dance Moms. 2.20 Dance Moms. 3.15 Dance Moms. 4.10 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 5.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)
6.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Agents Paul and Steve face a moral dilemma in south London, when they find out the tenant they have been instructed to evict is on his way to a funeral. Elsewhere, Stewart and Victor chase £1,000 from a debtor who has defaulted on his payment plan, but they are subjected to abuse and the police are called to a driveway standoff. Plus, two agents try to recover £1,600 worth of goods from the owner of an entertainment company after a wedding day dispute, and in west London, a landlady is owed £9,000 in rent arrears by a young mother. (R)
7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. A vehicle transporting Jada Khaled to her criminal tribunal is ambushed, prompting the team to trace the culprit in an attempt to save her and the case. Meanwhile, concerns grow for Sam as it is the first time he has seen the former governor's sister since returning from Sudan.
8.00 NCIS. The secretary of the US Navy seeks the NCIS team's help in locating a suitable bone marrow donor for a sailor whose two Marine brothers were killed in the line of duty.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Aston Villa v Sheffield Wednesday and Newcastle United v Fulham.
9.50 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce action from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Gillingham v Scunthorpe United and Cambridge United v Doncaster Rovers.
10.20 Ice Boxing on 5. Craig Kennedy v Stephen Simmons. Coverage of the bout for the vacant British Cruiserweight title.
12.10 SuperCasino. 3.10 Film: London Boulevard. (2010) 4.50 House Doctor. (R) 5.15 Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues 8.00 She-Volves: England's Early Queens 9.00 Follow the Money 11.00 Top of the Pops: 1983 America 3.15 Sounds of the Eighties 3.45 Close
ITV2
11.10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway 12.40 The Voice UK 2.00 You've Been Framed! Gold 2.30 FYI Daily: Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) 3.30 FYI Daily: 4.25 Film: King Kong (2005) 5.25 FYI Daily: 5.30 Film: King Kong (2005) 8.00 Scorpion 9.00 Film: American Pie: The Wedding (2003) 10.00 FYI Daily 10.05 Film: American Pie: The Wedding (2003) 10.55 Family Guy 12.25 American Dad! 1.20 Release the Hounds: Famous & Freaked 2.20 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.45 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.35 Inspector Morse 1.50 Rosemary & Thyme 2.55 Agatha Christie's Marple 5.00 Films: The Wedding (2003) 11.00 Carry On Forever 12.00 Wycliffe 1.05 Marchlands 2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping
ITV4
11.00 Monster Carp 1.00 Storage Wars: New York 1.30 ITV Racing Live. Coverage of today's race meetings at Sandown Park and Wolverhampton. 4.00 Film: The Great Outdoors (1988) 5.00 FYI Daily 5.05 Film: The Great Outdoors (1988) 5.45 It's Not Rocket Science 6.45 Live Snooker: Players Championship. The concluding semi-final from Venue Cymru, Llandudno. 11.15 Film: 6 Bullets (2012) 12.20 FYI Daily 12.25 Film: 6 Bullets (2012) 1.35 AX Men 2.30 World Cup Rivalries: Brazil v Italy 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping
E4
11.30 Film: Step Up (2006) 1.35 The Goldbergs 3.00 Black-ish 3.30 The Big Bang Theory 4.00 Film: Mirror Mirror (2012) 6.05 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: Red 2 (2013) 11.15 Gogglebox 12.20 Celebs Go Dating 3.20 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 4.00 Rude(ish) Tube 4.45 Revenge
Film4
11.00 Casper (1995) 1.00 Win Win (2011) 3.15 Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) 4.55 John English (2003) 6.40 Morning Glory (2010) 9.00 AVP: Alien vs Predator (2004) 10.45 Hush (2008) 12.30 The Crazies (2010) 2.30 Rec 3: Genesis (2012) 4.00 Close

Tasty and healthy start to the year at Bangla Lounge

Commercial feature

INDIAN restaurant Bangla Lounge has been a popular fixture on Halesowen's High Street for more than a decade, attracting a loyal clientele with its mouth-watering range of traditional favourites and in-house specialities.

Head chef Abdul Ahad, who has worked for manager Bari Azad and his family for more than 20 years, continues to bring creative flair to traditional dishes as well as creating his own delicious specialities.

Recent additions to the extensive menu include lamb curry which is slow cooked with garlic and ginger.

There are plenty of options for vegetarians and for fish lovers including salmon, prawn and white fish.

Offer

Mr Azad said: "Because people traditionally like to keep a tight rein on their purses and wallets in January, we're introducing a new offer on Friday and Saturday evenings when diners can enjoy any starter, any main course, rice or naan, or vegetable dish plus ice cream and coffee for just £13.95. This offer is available for a limited period only."

Diners visiting on any evening between Sunday and Thursday can enjoy a two-for-one offer on main courses (eat in only, terms and conditions apply).

Bangla Lounge is aware that some weight conscious diners will be aiming to shed a few pounds in early 2017 and will be serving wholemeal bread and rice on request plus lower fat dishes.

The friendly staff are more than happy to



The stylish interior of popular Halesowen restaurant Bangla Lounge, where new dishes have been added to the menu

advise on the healthier options that are available on the menu.

If you are planning a celebration in 2017, the restaurant's upstairs function room, which can cater for up to 40

diners, is a popular venue for work parties, birthdays and anniversaries. Call to discuss your exact requirements.

Takeaways are also available for a 20 per cent discount and free home

delivery within a three mile radius of the restaurant.

For more details, or to book a table, call 0121 585 7020 or visit www.banglaloungehalesowen.co.uk



Bangla Lounge is a popular fixture on Halesowen's High Street

CHOICE



Amanda Redman

The Good Karma Hospital (ITV, 9pm)
The Monsoon season is beginning, and as the first rains start to fall, the tension between Lydia and Ruby is reaching boiling point – driving the younger doctor to make a shocking decision. Maggie's health begins to decline dramatically, and Debbie is adamant that the family must return to the UK. However, Maggie remains determined to remain in India for the time she has left, and struggles to persuade her daughter to honour her last wishes. Conclusion of the medical drama, starring Amrita Acharia and Amanda Redman. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **8.30** Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.15** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Tottenham Hotspur v Millwall (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme. **6.00** **The Big Painting Challenge.** Mariella Frostrup and Rev Richard Coles challenge the artists to capture the human body in motion, and a solo dancer is brought in to perform for them for two hours. This is only the warm-up for a far greater challenge, when an entire troupe of ballerinas put in an appearance and perform an extract from Swan Lake while the painters try and depict their movements. **7.00** **Countryfile.** Adam Henson presents clips from the Countryfile Archive that illustrate how farming has changed in Britain, including a report on an underground farm in the middle of London. **8.00** **Call the Midwife.** Sister Julianne oversees the opening of a family planning clinic, while Barbara is distraught when she discovers her father has accepted a missionary posting. Last in the series. **9.00** **SS-GB.** Drama set in an alternate history of the Second World War where Britain is under German occupation. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, which saw Liverpool face Burnley at Anfield. **11.00** **Would I Lie to You?** Comedy panel show, hosted by Rob Brydon, in which team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack are joined by celebrity guests to deceive their opponents with plausible lies. (R) **11.30** **American High School.** The seniors look forward to the prom, but two of the organising committee are not speaking to each other. TJ visits his father in prison as he waits to hear if he is being expelled. **12.20** The Celebrity Apprentice USA. **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.45** An Island Parish. (R) **7.15** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **8.15** Coast. (R) **8.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **12.00** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.30** MOTD2 Extra. **1.15** Rivers with Griff Rhys Jones. (R) **2.20** **Film:** Shall We Dance? (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Richard Gere and Susan Sarandon. **4.00** The House That S1000 Built. (R) **5.00** Back to the Land with Kate Humble. (R) **6.00** **Six Nations Rugby Union.** John Inverdale introduces action from the penultimate weekend of the tournament, featuring Wales v Ireland at the Principality Stadium, Italy v France at the Stadio Olimpico and England v Scotland at Twickenham. **7.00** **Robot Wars.** Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the second heat, as eight teams battle it out to win a single place in the grand final, pitting robots Cherub, P3D, Draven, Push to Exit, Hobgoblin, Behemoth, Cobra and Eruption against each other in the arena. **8.00** **Top Gear.** Matt LeBlanc and Chris Harris go on a road trip across the US in convertible supercars, a journey that takes them from deserts to snow-capped mountains. Back at the test track, David Tennant is the Star in a Reasonably Fast Car, while Rory Reid comes up with a series of challenges to put the Alfa Romeo Giulia through its paces. **9.00** **Down the Mighty River with Steve Backshall.** New series. The naturalist travels down the Balim River in New Guinea from its source to the sea. He begins his journey inland at Lake Habema, and braves white water rapids. **10.00** **Film:** The Face of an Angel. (2014) Premiere. A journalist and a documentary-maker become obsessed with the murder case they are covering. Fact-based drama, with Daniel Bruhl, Kate Beckinsale and Cara Delevingne. **11.40** **Women's Six Nations Highlights.** Lee McKenzie is joined by Kat Merchant and Donna Kennedy to present action from the penultimate week, featuring Wales v Ireland and England v Scotland. **12.10** Taboo. (R) **2.05** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **3.05** Holly City. (R) **4.05** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. **8.20** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.45** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Wild Australia with Ray Mears. (R) **11.25** Chopping Block. (R) **12.25** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **1.25** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** The Voice UK. (R) **2.45** Little Big Shots. (R) **3.45** The Chase. (R) **4.45** Tipping Point. (R) **5.45** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.00** **ITV News:** Weather. **6.15** **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** The comic is joined by Lorraine Kelly, Kathy Burke, Joe Lycett and Ainsley Harriott for the madcap panel show, in which the aim is to save Earth from an alien invasion. (R) **6.45** **Five Gold Rings.** A brother and sister and two Royal Navy shipmates compete to identify images on an LED floor while viewers can play along using the series app. Hosted by Phillip Schofield. **7.45** **The Voice UK.** Emma Willis hosts the final night of the live knock-out rounds, in which the acts on Gavin Rossdale's team sing to earn their places in the quarter-finals. **9.00** **The Good Karma Hospital.** The first rains of the Monsoon season start to fall as the tension between Lydia and Ruby rises, driving the younger doctor to make a shocking decision. Last in the series. **10.00** **ITV News:** Weather. **10.20** **The Nightly Show Best Bits.** Highlights of the second week of the entertainment show. **10.50** **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R) **11.50** **Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights.** Action from the semi-finals. **12.40** Jackpot247. **3.00** Chopping Block. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** **Film:** Cheaper By the Dozen. (2003) Family comedy remake, starring Steve Martin. **3.20** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **4.25** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.30** Channel 4 News. **6.00** **Crufts 2017.** Clare Balding presents live coverage from the final day of the prestigious dog show, culminating in the Best in Show award and featuring the judging of the Working and Pastoral Groups and highlights of the Flyball final and the international Agility contest. Plus, expert advice on making the most of a dog's relationship with children and saying goodbye to a dying pet. Last in the series. **8.30** **The Jump Live Final.** The surviving celebrities face the final stage of the winter sports challenge to determine the overall champion. They go head to head in the Snow Cross and Ski Cross events, before heading to the top of the ski jump one last time to see who can cover the longest distance. Presented by Davina McCall. **9.30** **Homeland.** Carrie gets bad news, Saul makes a plan and Quinn accepts his situation. Starring Claire Danes, Rupert Friend and Mandy Patinkin. **10.30** **War Child.** Documentary following three child refugees from Afghanistan and Syria making a dangerous journey across Europe in the hope of finding sanctuary, often unaccompanied by adults. **11.40** **Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R) **12.45** **Film:** Mama. (2013) Horror, starring Jessica Chastain. **2.25** The Last Leg. Comedian Harry Hill and physicist Brian Cox join the regulars. (R) **3.20** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. A cottage in Tunstall, Kent. (R) **4.15** Shipping Wars UK. Items include a Piaggio tuk tuk and a pair of swan pedal boats. (R) **4.55** Jamie's Comfort Food. (R) **5.05** Fifteen to One. General knowledge quiz, hosted by Sandi Toksvig. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.35** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **6.55** Oily the Little White Van. (R) **7.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **7.10** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **7.30** Little Princess. (R) **7.40** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.00** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.20** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.50** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.50** **Film:** Gorillas in the Mist. (1968) Fact-based drama, starring Sigourney Weaver. **3.20** Celebrity Carry on Barging. (R) **4.15** Celebrity Carry on Barging. (R) **5.15** Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R) **6.10** **Inside Windsor Castle.** A look back at events that shaped the monarchy between 1952 and 1972, as Prince Philip grew restless and the Queen Mother reportedly ran up debts of £7million. (R) **7.00** **Inside Windsor Castle.** A look at 20 years in the life of the Queen and her family, covering the era from 1972, when she celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary, to 1992. Last in the series. (R) **8.00** **The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** A Wolverhampton couple experience trouble with a neighbour whose extension is invading their space, while a former soldier takes the law into his own hands. (R) **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Film:** The Equalizer. (2014) Premiere. A retired secret agent applies his talents to the task of helping victims of injustice. When he witnesses a prostitute being beaten up by a pimp, he kills the man, an act that draws him into a battle to the death with a Russian crime syndicate. Action thriller based on the 1980s TV series, starring Denzel Washington. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm. **11.35** **Film:** Harry Brown. (2009) An elderly retired marine takes the law into his own hands when his friend is murdered by hoodlums on a London estate. Crime thriller, starring Michael Caine and Emily Mortimer. Edited to fit time slot. **1.20** SuperCasino. **3.10** Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Revolution and Romance: Musical Masters of the 19th Century **8.00** Dazzling Duets at the BBC **9.00** **Film:** The Lunchbox (2013) **10.40** Sound Waves: The Symphony of Physics **11.40** The Horizon Guide to Mice **12.40** Edwardian Insects on Film **1.40** Bunsen and Beer – When Darts Hit Britain: Timeshift **2.40** Dazzling Duets at the BBC **3.40** Close **ITV2**
2.00 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.30** 2Awesome: LA Story **2.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.45** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **5.20** **Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.20** FYI Daily **6.25** **Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **7.15** **Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20** **Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Ibiza Weekender **ITV3**
11.10 **Film:** Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** **Film:** Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **1.00** A Touch of Frost **3.05** **Film:** Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10** **Film:** Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **10.00** Carry On Forever **11.05** **Film:** The Constant Gardener (2005) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** **Film:** The Constant Gardener (2005) **1.30** Inspector Morse **3.20** May the Best House Win **5.05** On the Buses **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**
12.45 Live Snooker: Players Championship. **1.15** Storage Wars: Texas **5.40** Fishing Impossible **6.45** Live Snooker: Players Championship. **11.15** **Film:** Lock Up (1989) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** **Film:** Lock Up (1989) **1.30** Sporting Funnies **1.45** The Football Mavericks **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **E4**
2.00 Black-ish **2.30** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** **Film:** The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (2010) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** **Film:** Sleepy Hollow (1999) **12.05** Celebs Go Dating **1.10** Celebs Go Dating: The Finale **2.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.00** Gap Year **3.55** Hollyoaks **Film4**
1.00 Dunston Checks In (1996) **2.45** King Kong (1976) **5.25** Carry On Regardless (1961) **7.20** Chronicle (2012) **9.00** Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (2011) **11.35** High Crimes (2002) **1.50** Magic Magic (2013) **3.55** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Sabotage, Channel 5, 11.05pm
The members of an elite Drug Enforcement Administration team secretly keep the millions of dollars they find during the raid. When they are killed off one by one, the leader becomes convinced one of his men is getting rid of the others to keep all the money, and sets out to expose the murderer. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. (2014)

TUESDAY

Stranger in the House, Channel 5, 3.20pm
Newlywed Jade returns from her honeymoon to discover her recently widowed father has been seduced by the caregiver she hired to look after him in her absence. The strange situation becomes even more suspicious when Jade's dad suddenly dies from a fall, and when the young woman finds out her new step-mother is the sole beneficiary of a recently amended will, she becomes convinced a murder has taken place. Thriller, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Jordana Lary. (2016)



Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest, Friday, BBC1, 10.35pm

WEDNESDAY

Deadly Suspicion, Channel 5, 3.20pm
The estranged family of a murdered politician suspects the killer is his mentally disturbed daughter. Thriller, starring Marilu Henner, Emily Bergl and Matt Keeslar. Edited for violence. (2008)

THURSDAY

Left for Dead, Channel 5, 3.20pm
After being left for dead, a detective develops amnesia and remembers nothing about her life or family. As she struggles to recall her past, she discovers that the road to recovery may threaten the safety of her husband and daughter. Thriller, starring Elisabeth Rohm, Tygh Runyan and Neil Napier. (2014)

FRIDAY

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest, BBC1, 10.35pm
Captain Jack Sparrow battles to save his soul from the legendary Davy Jones and his fearsome sea monster. Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Jack Davenport and Bill Nighy. (2006)

Uhtred makes plans for revenge as series returns

The last time we saw Alfred (David Dawson), he was hiding in a swamp with Uhtred (Alexander Dreymon).

In the series one finale, the two came together to take on the Danes, who have conquered almost all the kingdoms in the realm. So, what will Alfred find on the road in season 2, as he sets his sights on the wild lands of the north?

Well, for starters, he finds a lot of suffering. With no army to defend them, his people were left to fend for themselves, and many of them lost their wealth and lives due to raids by the Danes and others.

But Alfred's conviction to create a united England is stronger than ever, and he targets the wild lands of the north, which have fallen into chaos and rebellion.

Uhtred, meanwhile, went through a subtle transformation in series one. The warrior's fiery temper cooled a little and during his time with Alfred in the marshlands, he also felt sympathy for him on account of the suffering of the king's child.

The character was willing to learn and change after his interactions with the Saxons, but this change is unlikely to be welcome to many of the other Danes.

So Alfred and Uhtred now have to find a way to fight back the Danes, and the latter also embarks on a voyage north to avenge Earl Ragnar's death and recapture his ancestral lands of Bebbanburg.

The pair's main nemesis this time around looks to be Guthrum (Thomas W Gabrielsson), Ubba's second-in command who is both intelligent, ruthless and unheeding.

This bloody Viking vs Saxon series is adapted by BAFTA-nominated and RT's award-winning writer Stephen Butchard from Bernard Cornwell's bestselling series of novels.

It is set in the ninth century at a time when many of the separate kingdoms of England have fallen to the invading Vikings, with only the great kingdom of Wessex left standing and defiant under the command of King Alfred the Great.

The emotionally complex and compelling landscape of revenge, rivalry, hostility, corruption, love, sex, loyalty and friendship forms the backdrop to a gripping adventure, and such has been its popularity overseas, this second series has seen Netflix climb aboard to co-produce the series along with the BBC.

Dreymon (American Horror Story) and Dawson (Peaky Blinders) return as the two leads, and they are reunited with Emily Cox (Homeland) who stars as Brida, Ian Hart (Boardwalk Empire) who plays Beocca and Tobias Santelmann (Marcella) as Ragnar the Younger from the first series.

The Last Kingdom has been described as 'the thinking person's Game of Thrones.'

And although the series may not ever be as popular as that - let's not forget it is an historical drama rather than a fantasy series - it certainly fills the gap for viewers thirsty for battles, gore, hairy warriors with swords and famous actors meeting grisly ends.



The Last Kingdom, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

for ever by what appears to be an innocuous discovery. Louise (guest star Keeley Hawes) and David (Reece Shearsmith) have a young daughter, a lovely house and a seemingly ordinary life. But then David finds a single black shoe and brings it home with him. Admittedly, a few people would question that decision, but for this family the shoe becomes a life-changing obsession that threatens to come between them.

WEDNESDAY

The Royal House of Windsor Channel 4, 9pm
The fascinating story of the Windsor dynasty continues, this week charting the drama and intrigue associated with Prince Charles' love-life. It begins by looking at how, during the late 1970s, the Prince of Wales resolved to avoid repeating the mistakes of his great uncle, King Edward VIII, and sought advice on marriage from another great uncle - Lord Mountbatten. Taking Charles under his wing, Mountbatten arranged a secret meeting in Paris between the heir and his disgraced 'Uncle David'. However the exiled king's



Inside No 9, Tuesday, BBC2, 10pm

example fails to stop Charles falling in love with an unsuitable woman, who ends up marrying one of her past boyfriends. Returning to his first love, Camilla Parker Bowles - now a mother of two - stability continues to elude the prince. And pressure from all sides prompts him to turn his eye to Lady Diana Spencer.

THURSDAY

Shop Well for Less? BBC1, 8pm
Katy and Wayne Williams love designer clothes - and their passion for labels has been passed on to their eight-year-old daughter Holly, who is already very brand aware. Unfortunately, their taste for luxury comes at a price, and the couple's credit card bills are spiralling out of the control - which is where Alex Jones and Steph McGovern come in. They head to North Wales to change the family's ways, and their first act is set up a pop-up shop filled with the Williams' belongings to make them face up to the

reality of their splurges. The presenters then set about replacing some of the family's usual brands with cheaper alternatives, before taking away some of their luxuries, from hairpieces to expensive nights out. But while this leads to the Williams spending less cash - and more time together - will they be inspired to make a permanent change?

FRIDAY

Tony Robinson: Coast to Coast Channel 5, 8pm
The actor and history buff steps off the beaten track to reveal the fascinating religious and industrial heritage that underscores the near-200-mile stretch of lush and diverse countryside along northern England. Venturing from the west to the east, his journey begins in the village of St Bees where he asks: why does such a small community have such a colossal church? The morning's exploits leave Tony hungry, and he seizes the opportunity to discover the upper crust origins of the scotch egg in the Lake District. Then, at the region's most westerly lake, Tony meets a farmer taking a pioneering approach to protect the natural environment, before trying his hand at brewing the perfect pint of craft ale. The first leg of Tony's journey comes to an end at England's most remote youth hostel, Black Sail Hut.

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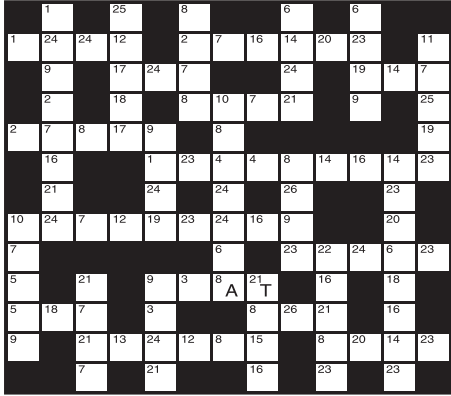
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

W	S	J	O	Y	H	Z	L	C	Q	N	G	A
R	T	U	X	I	D	M	V	B	E	P	K	F

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

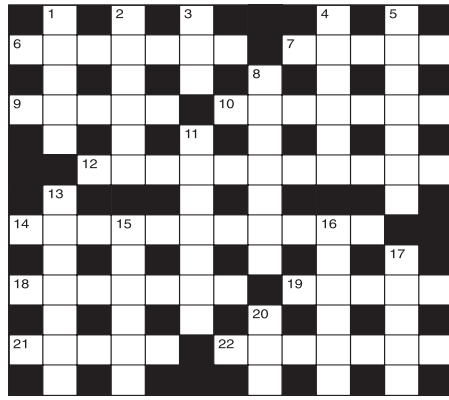
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Tell about a second reckoning (7)
- Pinafore used back in Roman or pagan days (5)
- One cent to add to the total returned makes a sweet sound! (5)
- Is it stopped to play the first note of the scale? (7)
- How to raise stock but see profits diminish? (11)
- A purposeful glance at the dictionary? (7,4)
- Muttered that mother lost blood (7)
- Don't get rid of the staff! (5)
- 21 & 22 Ac. Toss for ends? (5,2,5)
- See 21 Across

Down

- 1 & 3 Dn. He makes his first appearance, putting aunt badly in debt (8)
- Refinement in language? (6)
- See 1 Down
- Firing into the air by way of conclusion (6)
- Leave and throw away that young bird (7)
- Lies and disclaimers (7)
- Tool for bridge-building? (7)
- Commissioned position indeed! (7)
- The missing corpse is that of an insignificant person (6)
- Was prostrate longer through expenditure? (6)
- Series of notes on a fish? (3)
- Cook small fish (6)



Quick Clues:

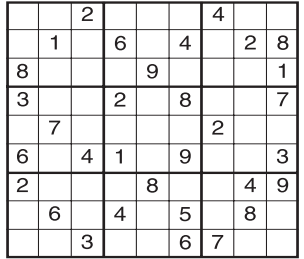
Across

- Income (7)
- Rate (5)
- Coach (5)
- Lull (7)
- Show (11)
- Bar (11)
- Free (7)
- Scatter (5)
- Pungent (5)
- Merit (7)

Down

- Joyous (5)
- Quote (6)
- Place (3)
- Seem (6)
- Under (7)
- Beat (7)
- Arch (7)
- Non-existence (7)
- Essay (6)
- Start (6)
- Quit (5)
- Chop (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	2	9	8	6	4	5	7	3
4	5	8	9	3	7	6	2	1
3	7	6	5	2	1	9	4	8
6	9	5	1	7	2	3	8	4
7	1	4	6	3	2	8	5	9
8	3	2	4	5	9	1	6	7
2	4	7	3	1	6	8	5	9
9	8	3	2	4	5	7	1	6
5	6	1	7	9	8	4	3	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC: Across: 1 Square meal; 7 Thumb; 8 Founder; 10 Contours; 11 Keep; 13 Seated; 15 Parsee; 17 Iota; 18 Tributes; 21 Lasting; 22 Elfin; 23 Undertakes. Down: 1 Spurn; 2 Unbroken; 3 Reform; 4 Maul; 5 Address; 6 Stock-still; 9 Repressing; 12 Daybreak; 14 Artisan; 16 Fright; 19 Tiffs; 20 Time. QUICK: Across: 1 Supervisor; 7 Erase; 8 Proceed; 10 Condense; 11 Fate; 13 Pierce; 15 Pillar; 17 Iran; 18 Christen; 21 Edition; 22 Tress; 23 Undeterred. Down: 1 Stain; 2 Presence; 3 Repeat; 4 Icon; 5 Overall; 6 Perceptive; 9 Greatness; 12 Minister; 14 Evasion; 16 Change; 19 Tread; 20 Size.

Quiz

- With which saxophone is Sidney Bechet associated?
- Who resigned in November 1994 as head of the Number 10 Policy Unit?
- In which year was the CBI established?
- Whose epic silent film The Birth of a Nation is considered the first film masterpiece?
- Who was the first member of the Royal Family to visit Argentina after the Falklands?

- From which language is Afrikaans a direct descendant?
- Which French philosopher wrote Being and Nothingness in 1943?
- With which two cities is Italian painter Canaletto chiefly associated?
- Who co-wrote Jesus Christ Superstar with Andrew Lloyd Webber?
- What are the dangerous group of islands off Land's End called?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 The electric chair; 2 Methuselah; 3 San José; 4 Ecstasy; 5 Kevin Keegan; 6 Oboe; 7 Tiger; 8 Zimbabwe; 9 Camelot; 10 A daffodil.

Niner: ARTICHOKE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

9531
71678
438421

gives a heavenly body,
gives a constellation,
gives a star sign.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Ticket

Make a night of it

Severnth heaven – Al Murray is on at Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury



Comedian Al Murray is on at the Theatre Severn tonight and we're calling time please. The Ticket's here to help you enjoy some laughs with the Pub Landlord giving you the lowdown on all the best places to be. . .

MEAL TICKET



If true Brit Al Murray was heading out for eats before the gig, he would probably head to the nearest traditional boozer for some good old fashioned pub grub. Happy days as The Foundry is on site at the theatre and is all about British food. With dishes on the menu such as chicken liver pâté to start followed by rump steak with triple cooked chips or chicken supreme with creamy mash you're spoilt for choice. There are some tasty desserts too. . . spiced orange cake or brownie with chocolate sauce. Yum, yes please. If you fancy doing an 'Al Murray U-turn' when it comes to fodder, try some foreign fare at Bistro Jacques. It's fine French dining with rustic dishes that will have you saying bonjour for more.

IN THE DRINK



Where would Pub Landlord Al Murray go before a night out? A typical stop off for a quick pint and a packet of crisps would be The Coach and Horses in the town centre. The traditional and cosy Victorian pub is tucked away on a side street, Swan Hill, and is an authentic British boozer with a small side snug and a lounge bar to kick back and relax. Small sherry for the ladies?

SLEEP ON IT



If you fancy a sleepover after a night of belly laughs then there are several options in the pretty riverside town.

BARGAIN BUNK-UP

For the more cash-strapped gig-goer the best place to lay your weary head would be the Premier Inn in the centre of Shrewsbury. It's easy to get to as it's a stone throw from the theatre over the other side of the river, so you can enjoy a nice gentle walk before bed. With rooms from £41 a night it won't break the bank and you'll be sure to have some spare cash for more theatre tickets.

SPEND, SLEEP, REPEAT

If you fancy a more luxurious night of kip then book in to the four-star Prince Rupert Hotel in the town centre. It's a gentle stroll from the theatre and has plenty of fancy room options with many having views of the historic and famous 12th Century St. Alkmund's Church and the Tudor Bear Steps or overlooking the 12th Century Mansion House courtyard garden. Visit the website to get the best price. Treat yourself!

DRIVE TIME

WHEEL DEAL

The best way to get to Theatre Severn is by driving. Good news is that it's located right next to Frankwell Car Park and you'll only have to pay before 6pm, so it's perfect for showtime and will avoid additional expense. If you're using a SatNav just type in the postcode SY3 8HQ and it will get you straight to the theatre. For more information about the venue visit www.theatresevern.co.uk

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Departing Saturday 10 June 2017



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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

27
Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, March 9, 2017

Substantial family home in one of the top positions in area

A superior and substantial detached family home, 14 Clear View, Kingswinford, lies in one of the best positions within a highly sought-after area.

In a prestige cul-de-sac, approached off Lodge Lane, it is close to neighbouring countryside and Summerhill Secondary School. It is for sale through Taylors at £525,000.

In an enviable position, this includes a large block paved driveway, a generous garage together with the extensive, well-maintained and beautifully private rear gardens.

The property is beautifully maintained and well appointed throughout, all of which complements the generous layout of accommodation which includes a very large full-depth sitting room with a dining room/second sitting room off and through to the conservatory.

The family breakfast kitchen has been recently re-fitted to include appliances and positioned just off the breakfast kitchen is the laundry room. Off the landing are the four generous bedrooms, the master bedroom having re-fitted en-suite shower room and there is an attractive house bathroom.

The property is located at the head of the cul-de-sac to benefit from the 'open' front outlook and to the rear are the very secluded gardens. This home has gas central heating, cavity wall/loft insulation and double glazing.

In more detail, the reception hall has under-stairs storage and a door to the cloakroom/WC. The generous sitting room has a bow window to the front and French doors to the rear garden, as well as a living flame gas fire in an Adams' style fireplace. The dining/second sitting room has French doors to the conservatory with floor tiling.

Being re-fitted, the breakfast kitchen has cream gloss finish units, an integrated four-ring electric hob, cooker hood, an integrated double oven, large pan drawers with corner cupboards alongside and wall mounted cupboards above.

Outside, the gardens include a large patio area, generous lawns, a feature 'rockery', greenhouse, timber shed and a timber summerhouse/store.

KINGSWINFORD £525,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Taylors

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EMAIL: kingswinford@taylors-estateagents.co.uk

KEY FEATURES

Substantial detached home

Cul-de-sac location

4 generous bedrooms

Driveway & generous garage

Extensive beautiful gardens



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If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.



Magnificent house with lots of family appeal

TIPTON
£269,950

This magnificent residence of immense appeal in Standbridge Way, Tipton, lies in a choice position within one of the most sought-after estates in the area.

It is for sale through Skitts at £269,950.

The gas centrally-heated and double-glazed interior includes a reception porch to an entrance hall with a lounge, dining room, second reception room, kitchen/diner, fitted cloakroom/WC and a separate downstairs shower room.

Upstairs there are four good-sized bedrooms to which the master has an en-suite and a large family bathroom. This property is stunning and must be viewed.

Call Skitts on 0121 520 2255 or visit www.skitts.net



Detached home has four bedrooms and no chain

OLDBURY
£249,950

<<<

This four-bedroomed detached house in Brades Road, Oldbury, is spacious and in a convenient location.

It is for sale through Tom Giles at £249,950 with no chain. With gas central heating and double glazing, it has a porch, an entrance hall, a lounge, an under-stairs store cupboard, a dining room, a kitchen, a utility, a lobby, a cloakroom, four bedrooms, an en-suite shower, a main bathroom, double garage and parking. There are established gardens to the front and rear.

It is within walking distance of Oldbury town centre in turn providing shopping facilities and public transport links into West Bromwich, Blackheath, Dudley and other surrounding areas. Sandwell & Dudley Railway Station is also close by, together with Junction 2 of the M5 motorway for commuting to all major towns and cities.

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Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, March 9, 2017

Halesowen



Merrivale Road

- * Attractive Semi-Detached House
- * Dining Room, Lounge & Conservatory
- * Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom & Garage
- * Three Bedrooms
- * Bathroom with both Bath & Shower Cubicle
- * Pleasant Gardens, Internal Inspection Recommended EPC=IbC

Offers in the region of £195,000



Oldbury



Tame Rise

- * Ideal for Investors or First Time Buyers
- * Terraced house
- * Through living room
- * Three bedrooms
- * Bathroom and wc
- * Off road parking to rear
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £114,950



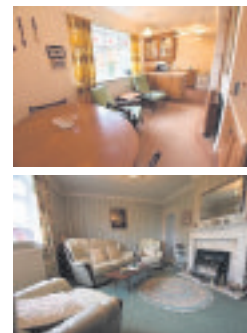
Quinton



Pitman Road

- * Mid Terraced House
- * Three Bedrooms and Bathroom
- * Kitchen/Dining Room and Living Room
- * Pleasant Rear Garden
- * No Upward Chain
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £134,950



Quinton



High Street

- * Deceptively Spacious Extended Four Bedroom Semi Detached
- * Two Reception Rooms
- * Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- * Bathroom
- * Ensuite Shower Room
- EPC=D

Offers in the region of £255,000



Droitwich



St. Peters Crescent

- * Popular location
- * Semi-detached house
- * Three bedrooms
- * Through living room comprising dining room and living room
- * Conservatory
- * Good sized rear garden EPC=E

Offers in the region of £219,950



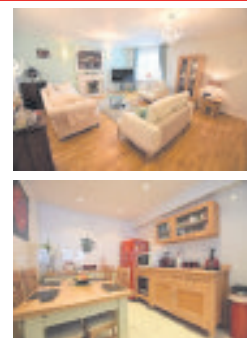
Halesowen Romsley



Romsley Hill Grange Farley Lane

- * Ground floor apartment
- * Kitchen/dining room
- * Two Bedrooms
- * Living room
- * Re-fitted shower room
- * Communal gardens EPC=E

Offers in the region of £209,950



Oldbury



Perry Court

- * Self contained retirement flat
- * Living room
- * Kitchen
- * Two bedrooms
- * Bathroom
- EPC=C

Offers in excess of £70,000



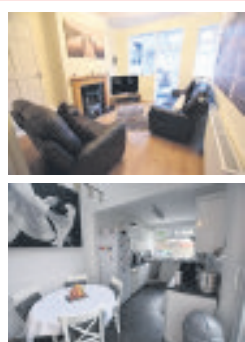
Oldbury



Farm Road

- * Spacious Terraced House
- * Three First Floor Bedrooms
- * Well Proportioned Refitted Bathroom with Shower Cubicle
- * Two Reception Rooms
- * Extended Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- * Rear Garden EPC=D

Offers in the region of £149,950



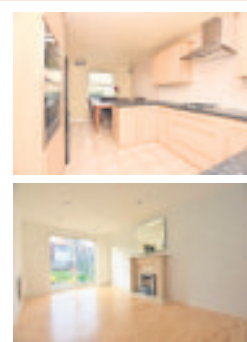
Oldbury



Kingsway

- * Modern three storey family home
- * Four good sized bedrooms (master with en-suite)
- * Through living room
- * Kitchen/dining room
- * Garage
- * No upward chain EPC=C

Offers in the region of £265,000



Oldbury



Hanover Gardens

- * Modern semi-detached bungalow
- * Well proportioned accommodation
- * Two bedrooms
- * Shower room
- * Conservatory
- * Detached garage
- EPC=C

Offers in excess of £180,000



Halesowen



Inkberrow Road

- * Re-Planned Family Home
- * Three Bedrooms
- * Kitchen & Utility
- * Well Appointed Bathroom & Additional W.C
- * Pleasant Rear Garden
- * Popular Residential Location
- EPC=C

Offers in the region of £229,950



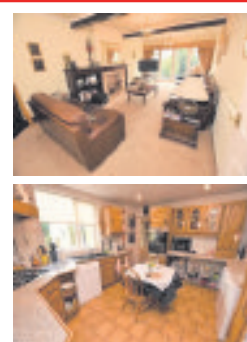
Oldbury



Oak Road

- * Dining room
- * Living room
- * Former garage/family room
- * Kitchen and utility
- * Bedroom two with en-suite
- * Four further bedrooms
- * Family bathroom EPC=D

Offers in the region of £309,950



Stourbridge



Wollaston Road, New Wood,

- * An improved detached family house with open aspect
- * Four bedrooms with two en-suites and bathroom
- * Dining area, lounge leading to conservatory
- * Fitted kitchen, utility and cloakroom
- * Garage
- * Landscaped garden
- * A must view property EPC=C

Offers in the region of £489,950

Halesowen



Firth Drive

- * Cul de sac location.
- * Three bedroom semi detached.
- * Living room and kitchen/dining room.
- * Off road parking
- EPC=G

Offers in the region of £119,950

Quinton



Ridgacre Road West

- * Extended 3 bedroom semi-detached.
- * Extended kitchen
- * Utility and downstairs WC
- * Through lounge and additional reception room/potential bedroom four
- * Garage
- EPC=E

Offers in the region of £209,950

Halesowen



Victoria Avenue

- * Family house in desirable location
- * In need of general modernisation and improvement
- * Principal bedroom with dressing room
- * Bedroom two with study area opening off
- * Bedroom three
- * Dining hall, lounge, sitting room
- * Kitchen/breakfast room
- * Extensive gardens EPC=E

Offers in the region of £340,000

Halesowen



Blackberry Lane

- * A detached family house with four bedrooms
- * Desirable residential location with open aspect at rear
- * Lounge, dining room and study
- * Principal bedroom with en-suite
- * Fitted kitchen with host of appliances, utility room and fitted cloakroom
- * Detached double garage, lovely gardens EPC=C

Offers in the region of £380,000

Halesowen



Manor Abbey Road

- * Superior Family Home
- * Substantially Extended & Re-Planned
- * Finished to a Good Specification
- * Five Bedrooms (Two with Ensuite Shower Rooms)
- * Wow! Factor Kitchen/Breakfast/Family Room
- * Well Appointed Family Bathroom with Shower
- * Good-Sized Rear Garden
- * Must Be Viewed EPC=D

Offers in the region of £530,000



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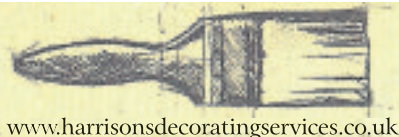
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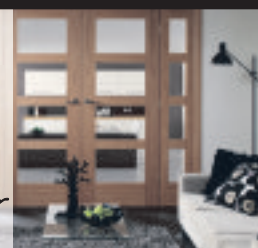
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• Fencing and Decking • Power Washing • 5 year guarantee
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Manufacturers & Installers of windows, doors & conservatories
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ANT ELECTRIC
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‘No Job Too Small’



Local Specialists

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LBT Fencing
All types of quality fencing supplied & erected
Plus decking, slabbing & block paving
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Tel: **0121 585 9992 or 07884 344616**
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• Turfing • Garden Clearance
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Manufacturers of all Concrete Products eg. Concrete Posts, Gravel Boards
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We Fit UPVC Soffits & Fascias

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CARDINAL LANDSCAPES
West Midlands Specialists in Patios, Driveways, Paths, Fencing, Turfing, Decking and Landscaping
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• Garden tidy up's
• Bush/tree's/containers/hedges cut or removed
• No job too big or small
• Special rates for OAP's
• Gutters Cleaned
• Fencing and Sheds Painted/Creosoted
• Chipper Hire
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Established 24 years
Gardening & Landscaping Services
Including: • Tree Lopping • Hedge Cutting
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FULLY INSURED • OAP DISCOUNTS
FOR FREE QUOTE CALL:
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1

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2

E-mail us at...
mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk

3

Post to...
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Local Specialists

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sell with
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2. Call our Classified sales
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3. Self Serve -
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in print and online - visit:
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

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Mobile Hairdresser

MOBILE HAIRDRESSER
Cuts, Colours, Perms etc
Hair Extensions
Call Lyndsey **07795 514858**

Mot's

MOT
£27.99
with this advert
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(rear of Gold Cue Snooker Club), Blackheath, B65 0LJ
0121 559 6001

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C.A. Plastering
For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment
needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding,
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No job too small **07538 718264**

DH PLASTERERS
FROM boarding,
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**GUARANTEED
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Local Specialists

Plumbing & Heating

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Get your boiler serviced
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**Special Offers
Now On!**
Have you had
your boiler/fire
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Insulation, repairs and services on boilers,
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Install A band condensing boiler with
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Landlords certificate
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All installations and repairs
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• Jet Washing/Driveways/Patios,
Re-Sanding/Sealing
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Local Friendly Service
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SPECIAL OFFERS
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters,
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Roofing

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Premium Products Expertly Fitted
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Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate,
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FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE
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Ceramic, Porcelain and Natural Stone
Walls • Floors • Bathrooms • Kitchens • Conservatories
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Full Window Wizard Services Available
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JC RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES
Specialists in
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Antiques
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No Job Too Small
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Choice of patterns
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2

E-mail us at...
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3

Post to...
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funeral directors

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family run
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Halesowen B62 8EN
www.halestonememorials.co.uk

1 Family

elderly & disabled

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Excellent condition. Four wheels. Fits easily in a car boot. Can deliver.

£275.
07905 770683.
MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powenick, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292
WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

camping equipment

EIGHT BERTH CAMPING TRAILER in need of small repair. £175. 07948 309727.

caravans / motorhomes

We Want Your Motorhome

Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

STATIC CARAVAN FOR SALE ON ANGLESEY
Village location, 1 mile from beach, 2 bed with private parking, decking included, overlooking stream. £12,500. Includes site fees for 2017. 07462 719969.

caravans wanted

CARAVAN WANTED. Cash on pick up asap. Caravan wanted. Call me on 07717 090817.

fishing

FISHING TACKLE WANTED anything considered. New or Old 01902 754011 or 07931 568716

jumble sales / fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
Sunday 12th March
Next Sale: 26th March
KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE
DY7 6ER
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

holidays

caravan parks

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME for sale on 5* Park, DG, CH, bar & restaurant. Child & pet friendly, 20 acres walking woodland £24,995 inc 2017 site fees Call 01568 708 326.

what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS VINTAGE FAIR
CORNHALL HALL, HAGLEY STREET, HALESOWEN, B63 3AT
FRIDAY 17TH MARCH
8.00AM - 4PM
07783 680 627

markets

BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
Bank's Stadium, Watfall CV
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, 39 MG
07889 975701 All hard standing

3 Home & Services

collectables & memorabilia

TWO CHARLIE bears, Tiff Toff and Cinders, complete with dustbags, £130 for both. 07878 554209.

furniture

LEATHER RECLINING Three piece suite, two tone grey, 6 months old. £800 ono. 01902 784911.

THREE PIECE SUITE, footstool, excellent, top grade Italian leather, cream, £279 ono. 01384 287461.

items for sale

PICKWICKS Victorian potato oven, good condition, £1,800. Telephone 01902 784244.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE CASH PAID TODAY
No amount is too small
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
• Jewellery • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental items
Pre 47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/ Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/ any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219 / 07891 713547
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com



AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED ALSO GARAGE CLEARANCES

old enamel signs, petrol cans,

old jugs, classic car parts,

bikes and motorbikes.

Anything old.

** Top prices paid **

01384 836219 / 07891 713547

FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES
Tickets and other sports memorabilia.
Top prices paid for the right item.
Call Paul on 01543 251743.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

specialists at your service

aerials

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS



"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST
CCTV cameras fitted/drv wallmount, free quote any area. 07850 330251

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
SATELLITE & CCTV
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
01902 558191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

VISA **Checkatrade.com**

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including:
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,
driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

building supplies

QUALITY DOORS AND HARDWOOD FLOORING @ low prices. Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

carpentry & joinery

B & S JOINERY Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £370. 0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

fencing

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS



"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"
Michael - Portway Fencing.

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Boys of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards. £695
Heavy duty ponds supplied & fitted.
0121 531 3250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, Wbury
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden. Improvements. Mark or Sara. 07741 770897

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE
Clean and Reliable. All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07877 262543.

roofing

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Flat Roofs - Special Offer
Single Garage from £799
Double Garage from £1,399
07720 607822 - 0800 535 3168
Email: stormfixuk100@gmail.com
www.stormfixuk.co.uk

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN.

Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 701943, 07899 635852.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS

12 years experience. SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED. Free Quotes - Call Ric on: 07771 727119

skip hire

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It definitely works for us!"
Grinsells Skip Hire.

For great business results call
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Brought to you by Express & Star

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s
All size skips and all areas covered. Some day delivery faster than a phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

t.v. / home entertainment

sales

SAMSUNG 65IN curved TV, 4K Samsung Bluray 4K, still boxed, will PX with car, cost £2,600, sell £1,650. 07572 348364

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc. CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation, Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS



"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

Free Ads
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

BLACK AND WHITE
Jack donkey, Jenny Donkey with foal, black and white, also Jenny Donkey 2 years old, reasonable offers. Home more important than price. 07948 309727.

TWO AS BRAND NEW Exercise carts, one with disc brakes and removable shafts. 07948 309727.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

CANARIES, many colours, 2016 birds. £12.50 each. 01902 783614.

FIFE CANARIES for sale. £10 each. 07505 967184.

INCUBATOR for reptile eggs, Herp Nursery 11, as new, used twice. £60. 01902 651105.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

7 Jobs

courses

BIRMINGHAM: 21-22 JUNE
WOLVERHAMPTON: 15-16 JULY & 16-17 SEPT.
TELFORD: 20-21 MAY & 23-24 OCTOBER

Learn how to take blood TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST

NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED

Introduction to Phlebotomy

TWO DAY COURSE - National UK Qualification

NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

More info or to book: **www.geopace.com**

HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD

8 Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BARGAIN

FIAT PANDA

06 reg, 1100cc, full MoT. New clutch, brakes and discs. Very good condition, excellent runner.

£675 ono.
07810 590427.

BARGAIN

FORD FIESTA 1.3

2001 hatchback. MoT October 2017, 35,000 miles, sunroof, alloy wheels, pale green paintwork.

Lovely condition and drive.

Bargain £485.

0121 384 7888 or 07771 428793.

GOOD RUNNER

FORD FIESTA 1.3 GHIA

P reg, good condition, MoT June 2017, CL, EW, radio,

Good condition.

Runs very well.

£300 ono.

07905 369663.

MUST BE SEEN

FORD FIESTA 2007, 126,000 Miles, dark blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, alarm, 1 month MoT. Dual controls fitted. £750 07984 951047

FORD FOCUS

2005, 1600, metallic silver.

5-dr hatchback, petrol, manual.

MoT September 2017.

Good condition.

£950 ono.

07927 394067.

BARGAIN

HYUNDAI GETZ

1.3 GSi

52 plate, MoT end Nov

Tinted back windows., electric front windows, colour - red,

Good brakes and tyres.

£600 ono.

01902 843730 after 2pm.

BARGAIN

VW POLO TDI 1.4CC

54 reg., 7 months MoT, getting rid of due to illness.

£850 ono

07415 316195.

cars over £1500

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

AUDI QUATTRO 1.8 TT

Immaculate.

Low miles, MoT, Y plate,

Blue, well looked after.

£2,575 ono.

07948 146611.

LOOK JAGUAR X TYPE

04 reg, 65,000 miles, MoT.

£1,200 ono.

Telephone 01902 530538.

MUST BE SEEN

PEUGEOT 307, 1.4.

06 plate, good condition.

MoT end of July 2017.

lady owner, non smoker.

47,500 miles

£1,200 ono.

07845 112592.



BMW 318i ES
2007, 73,000 miles.
Excellent condition, silver.
MoT November,
18" M sport alloys.
Lady owner.
Private reluctant sale.
£3,875 ono.
07480 935127.



BMW X1 XDRIVE 1.8SE
2010, metallic silver, one
owner, 50789 miles, new MoT,
BMW ish, 4wd, air con, electric
and heated front seats, parking
sensors, DAB radio, extras.
£8,975.
07429 118849.



IDEAL FIRST CAR
CITROEN C1
11 reg
Low mileage
MoT, group 1 insurance.
Excellent condition.
£1,895.
07432 010478.



SHOWROOM CONDITION
MERCEDES A180 CDI
2015, dark grey,
1.5 diesel, Lady owner,
27,330 low mileage,
£30 per year tax, MoT'd,
leather interior, Sat Nav,
sensors, cameras, Bluetooth,
excellent condition
inside and out.
£16,750 ono.
07944 422732 /
01902 822933.



DIESEL
TOYOTA PREVIA 2.0 DIESEL
05, full MoT, service history,
guaranteed mileage, lady
owner, good condition.



£1,580 ono.
07838 650913.

VAUXHALL CORSA ACTIVE
1.2L 2012 White 3 Door,
Excellent Condition, MoT, Sept
2017, 27,000 miles, Lady
Owner. Bluetooth, Steering
Wheel Audio/Phone Controls.
£4,095
07846 979087



VOLVO S40
56 reg, 75,500 miles, silver.
One lady owner, ish. Leather
seats, Winter pack, abs, e/w,
a/c/climate, MoT Nov 2017,
Cruise control, alloys, CD, very
good condition.
£2,150. 07725 827131.



MUST BE SEEN
VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GT
5dr, 2011, immaculate
condition, low mileage, 53,600
miles. (cam belt replaced at
51,833 miles), 12 months MoT,
FSH, last serviced 16.11.16.
Alarm, immobiliser, alloy
wheels, CD player, PAS, front
and back fog lights, front and
rear parking sensors, CL.

£5,950 ono.

07817 073369.



commercial vehicles
FIAT SCUDDO, 1.9 diesel, 52 reg., 11
months MoT, good runner, needs
attention to door locks, £550 or very
near offer. 07498 288103.

classic cars



AUSTIN MINI
1979, light green with white
roof, 9 months MoT, 57,000
miles, solid genuine car. to
much to list,
£3,000.

Please call for more details.
07960 871665.
WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private
cash buyer. Instant cash settle-
ment. Any age. Any condition.
01630 652955 or 07773 462797.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded
that it is an offence under the Scrap
Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy
scrap cars/metal for cash.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE
WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MoT Failures Best
Prices Paid ELV Registered
Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or
0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 /
07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best
price for your unwanted cars/vans.
07903 549849, buyer will call.



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public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you
may fax any advertising
requirements to
Marie Hogg @
01902 713146
or email **marie.hogg@**
expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a
name/contact number for
confirmation of receipt)

JACQUELINE DOUGLAS
HEALY (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a
claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above-
mentioned deceased, late of 60 Olive Lane Halesowen B62
8LZ formerly of 2 Heron House 149 Brierley Road Coventry
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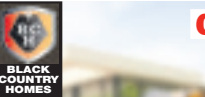
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Vauxhall launches three new models

Vauxhall this week revealed three all-new models at the Geneva Motor Show including the Insignia Grand Sport, Insignia Sports Tourer and Crossland X.

Following on from the previous generation, which won the European Car of the Year in 2009, and sold over 25,000 in the UK last year, the Insignia is based completely on a new vehicle architecture. Its revised proportions result in a more spacious interior, giving the car a more athletic appearance and an improved road stance.

There is a raft of top technologies that make driving the Insignia safer, more relaxing and more comfortable than before. Next-generation IntelliLux LED matrix lighting, Lane Keep Assist, Head-up Display and unique AGR-certified premium seats, front- and rear-seat heating and a heated wind screen are just some examples.

Outstanding infotainment and connectivity are also on board thanks to the latest generation IntelliLink systems and Vauxhall OnStar, which with the launch of the Insignia Grand Sport, will offer even more functionality for customers. New OnStar features allow occupants to book hotel rooms and search for suitable parking spots via an OnStar Advisor.

Crisp and compact on the outside, spacious and flexible on the inside, with unique two-tone paintwork and SUV-styling, Vauxhall's all-new Crossland X makes its debut.

While the Crossland X's recently-launched sibling, the Mokka X, has all-wheel-drive capability, is 70mm higher and has larger wheels for buyers with a taste for adventure, the Crossland X has a firm family focus, with a Tardis-like cabin providing high degrees



Vauxhall's all-new Crossland X has all-wheel drive



The Grand Sport has outstanding infotainment



Vauxhall showcases in Switzerland include the new Insignia Sports Tourer with a raft of new technologies

of practicality and flexibility. And at just 4.21 metres in length the Crossland X is more compact than the Mokka X, and a full 16cm shorter than the Astra Hatch, offering owners greater convenience while driving and manoeuvring in towns and cities. Adding to Crossland X's urban appeal is an elevated seating position and an overall height, which

is raised ten centimetres above the Astra's. Exceptional driver and passenger comfort has been an obvious priority for a car entering this class. The Crossland X has specially designed AGR-certified seats for the driver and front passenger, while rear passengers can adjust their seating position to increase leg room.

Additional innovations in the Crossland X make driving safer and more comfortable, and include a 180-degree panoramic rear-view camera, advanced park assist, forward collision alert with pedestrian detection and autonomous emergency braking, lane departure warning, speed sign recognition and side blind-spot alert, among others.

Vauxhall Exclusive allows customers to select their car in the colour of their choice. It also allows customers to decide on one of three distinctive paint finishes: tri-coat, metallic paint and pearl. In addition, Vauxhall Exclusive will offer further personalisation including leather options, a selection of wheels and decorative design elements.

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The design goes minor visual tweaks, the option of AWD and a five-door bodystyle.

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Battle of the sexes on the green baize

THE Golden Cue Snooker Club in Bilston hosts a battle of the sexes tomorrow night (Friday).

Former world champion Ken Doherty will be checking in to play a series of exhibition frames with Dudley's 11-time women's world champion Renée Evans.

The showdown is in aid of the Paul Hunter foundation and the duo will also be cueing off against a number of local players before the evening concludes with punters having the chance to team up alongside them.

The night has been organised by world snooker coach Andrew Highfield, who plays alongside Evans for Sedgley Ex-Services in the Staffs and West Midlands League and who is a close friend of Doherty.

The night will provide some last-minute practice for Evans, who was edged out 10-8 by Doherty in the 2015 World Championship qualifiers, as she prepares to defend her world title in Singapore. She will fly out the following morning.

"It promises to be a good night and there are still tickets up for grabs," said Highfield. Tickets cost £10 and are available from the Golden Cue club on 01902 404343 or from Lee Edwards on 07834 723836.

Legendary showmen globetrot to Brum

LEGENDARY basketball showmen the Harlem Globetrotters, bring their spectacular show to Birmingham next month during the United Kingdom leg of a 2017 world tour.

The players have shot hoops with President Obama and played with Manchester United and recently wrapped up a busy 90th year tour.

During the tour they named Pope Francis the ninth Honorary Harlem Globetrotter in team history, walked the runway at New York Fashion week and broke seven Guinness World Records. They also remixed the team's legendary theme song, Sweet Georgia Brown with the help of Grammy Award-winning producer/songwriter Teddy Riley.

Throughout their history, the Original Harlem Globetrotters have showcased their iconic talents in 122 countries and territories on six continents, often breaking down cultural and societal barriers while providing fans with their first-ever basketball experience.

Proud inductees of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the Globetrotters have entertained hundreds of millions of fans. They are at the Barclaycard Arena on April 14. Tickets are priced from £17.58. Call 0844 33 88 222

Riders rev up for the start of season

TESTING times lie ahead for British Superbike riders and teams as they split their time between the cold UK circuits and the warmer climes of Spain.

With less than a month before the BSB opener at Donington Park, Brierley Hill-born Michael Rutter is happy to wait until a week before the first race before declaring whether to run a superstock or superbike. He might even run both, depending on how testing goes.

"We're still waiting until after the final Donington Park test on March 23 and 24 before making a decision," he said. "We're also hoping to get a test date in Spain and we're happy to leave it until the last minute."

Meanwhile, the Wigley twins, aged 20, from Hedgesford, will battle it out on two different fronts. Kurt will race in the British Superstock 600 championship, on his Yamaha R6, but Matt has decided to step up an engine size for the British Superstock 1000 class on a new Kawasaki ZX10R.

Josh Hiatt, 14, from Heath Hayes, is making the step up to race in the British KTM Cup after turning down the chance to return to the Metrakit series or join the Aprilia Championships.



Jez Moxey and Sir Jack Hayward are spectators at Bilston



Former Bilston Town manager Joe Jackson

Nostalgia trip to get Town's old boys in the book

BILSTON TOWN are looking for some help as they plan a trip down memory lane.

The West Midlands League outfit want to put tales from the club's past down in print and are calling on fans, former players and committee members to come forward with their anecdotes, memories and special moments from the Steelmen's past.

Local author and club historian Jay Hearst has been commissioned to follow up the successful 'History of Bilston Town FC' book he penned in 2015 with a publication based on the more human side of Bilston Town, rather than its factual past. And chairman Graham Hodson is keen to spread the word.

He said: "Christmas 2015 saw us publish a book, written by Jay, The History of Bilston Town FC, which was particularly well received.

Anecdotes

"Based on the success of that, and the feedback received, we've commissioned Jay to write a second book," added Hodson, who has been chairman since 2009. He said this time the book would recall anecdotes, memories and moments from former and current players, management and supporters.

"We are looking for stories of the characters that played for or supported Bilston down the years and we want players, supporters, managers or committee members to recall their most memorable games, momentous occasions or cup runs.

"Young and old, local folk, anyone who has a story to tell relating to the club, we want to hear it.

"The aim is to obtain as many stories, anecdotes or memories as possible, compile and collate them, then publish them in a book. Some of the stories we have already received make fantastic, nostalgic reading."

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Nick Elwell

"Young and old, local folk, anyone who has a story to tell relating to the club, we want to hear it"

The late 50s and 60 were arguably the club's boom time and Hodson is especially keen to get players from that era involved and hopefully those that played in the first round FA Cup clash with Halifax at Queen Street in 1968.

The Steelmen made the second round of the competition in 1972, when they were edged out 1-0 in a replay on home soil by Barnet.

"The late 50s and 60s were great times for the club," added Hodson. "Players such as Ron McDermott were legends for the club. He scored 76 goals in one season and that is still a record for the Birmingham Works/West Midlands League.

"The FA Cup matches against Halifax and Barnet were also great occasions. We lost 1-0 to Barnet with QPR waiting in round three.

"We also had a good period when Joe Jackson was here in the 90s and former Wolves player Steve Daley, who was once Britain's most expensive footballer, also managed us for a while.

"We formed a former players' association a few years ago and when we meet up the old players have always got a story to tell."

Email stories to either graham_hodson@hotmail.co.uk or bilstontownfcbook@co.uk



Club chairman Graham Hodson



A packed stand for an FA Cup game in November 1968



Bilston Town FC line up for a pre-season picture ahead of the 2003/04 campaign



The Bilston Town FC team in the 1958/59 season

Sport

Memories sought in new chapter for football club

Page 35



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Hearn eggs on Sam for big pay day

STOURBRIDGE'S Sam Eggington has been promised another big fight by promoter Eddie Hearn following his stunning eighth round knockout of former two-weight world champion Paulie Malignaggi.

Eggington, aged 23, caught Malignaggi with a rib-cracking left hook and clipped him with a right for good measure as he fell to canvas during round eight on Saturday.

The American retired after the fight. Eggington was already mandatory challenger for the European belt, which he hopes to challenge for in Birmingham in May.

Eggington took to Twitter to thank fans for their support after the biggest win of his career on the undercard Haye versus Bellew. And he also promised Hearn he would be ready for the next challenge on May 13.

Meanwhile, Bloxwich fighter 'Cool Hand' Luke Paddock outclassed Lukasz Janik in the main event at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday.

The 25-year-old couldn't find the stoppage he was searching for but he impressed on his way to a 60-54 landslide victory over his Polish opponent.

Wolverhampton's Kyle Williams did well to keep composed against the aggressive Craig Derbyshire and earned a one-sided result.

The 25-year-old showed good footwork in the first couple of rounds to open up the angles against his capable opponent. Williams was confident throughout and kept a low guard but the most damaging shot Derbyshire landed was a head-butt in the fourth round which the referee scalded him for.

Williams remained calm and targeted the body whilst ensuring he kept out of trouble to secure a 60-55 victory.

Tipton's Ricky Summers took out his frustrations on opponent Remigius Ziausys after a British title fight against Frank Buglioni fell through.

The 29-year-old worked the jab well and landed some punishing blows which Ziausys did well to take. Summers landed flush with a powerful left-right combination in the fifth but his Lithuanian opponent absorbed the damage and gave the Summers the rounds he needed in a 60-54 victory.

Old Hill's Manny 'Pac Man' Zaber was sharp from the outset as he got back to winning ways against Ricky Leach.

Halesowen's Scott settles for silver

HALESOWEN para-cycling ace Helen Scott had to settle for silver as former partner Sophie Thornhill claimed a World Championship treble in the tandem sprint.

Scott and Alison Patrick were pipped by Thornhill and Corinne Hall on the final day of action in Los Angeles.

Thornhill, with whom Scott claimed a Paralympic title in Rio last summer, finished the championships with three gold medals after she and Hall claimed victory in both the time trial and pursuit. Scott, who acts as an able-bodied pilot for the visually impaired Patrick, also won bronze in the time trial.

Day to remember for young rugby fan



Aran with Billy Vunipola

A RUGBY fan from Pedmore Technology College got the experience of a lifetime when he unveiled his school's new Canterbury rugby shirt in front of thousands at Twickenham ahead of England's Six Nations clash with Italy.

The opportunity came as part of the CBRE All Schools programme, launched in 2012 by the Rugby Football Union, which aims to get more state secondary schools playing rugby and encourage students to join local clubs.

Aran Palmer was one of 100 students from across England who took to the

pitch before kick-off, unveiling their school's newly designed shirts ahead of the national anthems.

The 13-year-old admitted the whole day – which also saw him meet CBRE All Schools Ambassador and England international Billy Vunipola, line up on the pitch for the anthems and then sit in the crowd to watch the action – would live long in the memory.

"I was so excited about being on the pitch at Twickenham," said Palmer. "The design for our shirt was inspired by the school and our area. We live near

a river which is why the shirt is in blue and the horizontal stripes across it are meant to be waves.

"On the back we have the school logo as well and we have the Olympic torch on our sleeve."

Each shirt was individually designed by the school children at Canterbury kit design workshops last year.

England and Saracens No 8 Vunipola said: "The atmosphere in Twickenham on match day is very special and it's fantastic that the students got to experience it first-hand."

Full crowd for a day of celebrations

Old Hales 27 Bedford Athletic 23

THIS was to be a full day at Wassell Grove with more than 100 former players meeting for the club's annual reunion lunch hosted by Master of Ceremonies Simon Hussey and guest speaker, Welsh raconteur Mel Thomas.

A full crowd gathered for another must-win game for Hales, who were also in the mood to avenge the loss at Bedford earlier in the season.

The early exchanges favoured Hales and after 20 minutes pressure on the visitors line by the Hales pack resulted in skipper Steve Leach driving over for a try, converted by Ian Briggs for a 7-0 lead.

Bedford, although second best up front, always looked dangerous in the backs and within five minutes had breached the Hales defence for an unconverted try out wide.

Seven minutes later Hales were again on the attack with a neat chip kick by Chris Hooper which saw wing Luke Smith on the end of it to go over.

Neil Mason was yellow carded for a high tackle and Bedford replied with a penalty.

But again Hales came back. Leach finished a move through the middle of the pack for his second try, converted by Briggs for a 19-8 half-time lead.

An unconverted try got Bedford back into it in the second half and a converted try put the visitors in front, before Jay Reid touched down.

Bedford refused to lie down and kicked a penalty, to lead 24-23, but Briggs converted a penalty in the last 10 minutes to secure the points for Hales.

On Saturday Hales travel to Birmingham Solihull.

Old Halesonians seconds beat Broadstreet 27-22 in a rescheduled game and the 3rd/4ths beat Bromsgrove Vets 14-0.

Heathens tipped to make a challenge

SPORTS broadcaster Nigel Pearson has given the new-look Cradley Heathens side the thumbs-up ahead of the season launch party tomorrow night (Friday).

All seven riders will be at the Liberal Club on Upper High Street, Cradley Heath, from 7.30pm to meet fans and present the new race jacket. All money raised will go between the riders to help with their pre-season expenses.

Pearson, part of the Heathens management team, is backing Heathens to challenge for honours. He said: "I like the way the team has been put together. I feel we can be up there challenging."

★★★

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Thursday, March 9, 2017

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EARLY BENBOW GOAL DECISIVE

Halesowen Town 0 Stourbridge 1

LUKE Benbow's early goal earned Stourbridge a narrow victory in an eagerly awaited local derby, watched by a bumper crowd of 2,127.

With the local rivals needing points at the opposite ends of the table, it was second-placed Stourbridge who started more brightly in a predictably competitive start.

A trademark Tom Tonks throw-in was nodded wide by Dan Preston in the fifth minute and a Brad Birch shot looped away for the first corner of the game two minutes later.

The Glassboys had the ideal start when Benbow rose to convert his 30th goal of the season with a close range header from another Tonks corner in the eighth minute.

Halesowen gradually eased their way back into the game and went close in the 15th minute when Nathan Walker's shot was blocked from Lee Chilton's corner.

Bradley Lewis then headed a deep 26th minute Chilton cross at Stourbridge goalkeeper Matt Gould and Tristian Dunkley turned to fire wide two minutes later.

Pressure

But it was home goalkeeper Dan Platt who made a superb fingertip save to prevent Ethan Jones from doubling the lead with a fine shot from the edge of the area in the 33rd minute.

After a scrappy start to the second period, Halesowen upped the pressure and forced two consecutive corners after 63 minutes. Chilton then blasted Halesowen's best chance of the game against the bar from just five yards out in the 65th minute after latching onto Liam Slade's long throw-in.

With the Glassboys forced to camp in their own half, Dunkley turned to fire inches wide of the Stourbridge post three minutes later.

But Stourbridge weathered the storm and substitute Luke Rodgers went close when a fierce 79th minute shot was blocked in a crowded goalmouth and Jordan Archer flashed another late chance wide.



Luke Benbow celebrates the goal that gave Stourbridge victory in the so-called No9 Derby

Pedmore overcome a sluggish start

Pedmore (122-2) beat Hagley B (91-3) by 31 runs

PEDMORE, batting first in the Kinver Indoor Cricket League, got off to a sluggish start finding runs hard to come by.

At the halfway stage, the Pedmore score was just 39, but the next six overs produced 82 runs. Dan Jones was 25 no. Hagley

B's openers scored well in reply and they were in front of the run rate at halfway.

But the scoring dropped after the openers retired, aided by three overs of quick bowling from Paul Taylor.

Hagley A (142-2) beat Oldswinford (82-3) by 42 runs

A BRILLIANT one-handed

catch by Paddy Addis removed opener Mike Stead in the third over, but then the score rattled on to 108 for the second wicket.

Jack and Harry Stanier moved the scoring on but King-swinnford were ultimately unable to keep up with the run rate.

Jack Stanier took two wickets and hit 25 no.

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It's your chance to **SAVE UP TO 70%** - Furnish your home at phenomenally low prices - large stocks available for immediate delivery.
LEADING BRAND NAMES ALL REDUCED, EVERY SINGLE STOCK ITEM MUST GO!



TEMPUR



WILLIS & GAMBIER
Business Designed for Life



DURESTA



Karndean
Design flooring

THE LOUNGE CO

GASCOIGNE
Designs

DINING ROOM

ERCOL

3 door oak sideboard

Save £634 Was £1059

£425

HALO

2 door display cabinet

Save £453 Was £749

£296

ALFRANK

Marlow marble dining table and 6 chairs

Save £1726 Was £2399

£673

CHAIRS TO CLEAR

Assorted styles and designs

From £25

ALF UNO

Black high gloss 3 door sideboard

Save £591 Was £1029

£438

WILLIS & GAMBIER

Extending dining table with 4 chairs and 2 arm chairs

Save £1924 Was £3789

£1865

SKOVBY

Contemporary large sideboard

Save £820 Was £1549

£729

FLOORING

COLUMBIA TWIST

Stain resistant carpet 100% permalon

Save £8m² Was £12.95m²

£4.95m²

RUGS

Assorted ranges, colours and sizes - to clear

Save 70%

AXMINSTER

Sea Shell heavy duty domestic carpet

Save £50m² Was £119m²

£69m²

HOMEWARES

DENBY

Halo 16 piece boxed dinner sets

Save £100 Was £190

£90

MIRRORS

Massive showroom clearout

From £39

JOSEPH JOSEPH

Kitchenware stock must be cleared!

Save 30%



Cousins
a true family business

SALES ON ALL MADE TO ORDER ITEMS

www.cousinsfurniture.co.uk

Doors open Friday 10am SHARP!

EVERYTHING REDUCED!

COUSINS FURNITURE, CARPETS, BEDS & HOMEWARES

MULTI £MILLION CLEARANCE

3 DAYS - THIS FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

EVERYTHING MUST GO!

THERE ARE ALSO MASSIVE DISCOUNTS
ON ALL MADE TO ORDER ITEMS

Cousins

a true family business

CLEARANCE OPENING TIMES:

Fri 10am - 8pm, Sat 9.30am - 6pm, Sun 11am - 5pm

Birmingham
Warwick Road,
Tyseley. B11 2EW.
T: 0121 765 3300

Dudley
Hall Street
DY2 8NW.
T: 01384 451500

Manchester
A57, Regent Rd,
Salford. M5 4EA.
T: 0161 875 4070

www.cousinsfurniture.co.uk

PRICE PROMISE

Our price promise
to you, we won't be
beaten on price! *

- Free parking
- Instore restaurant
- Large stocks
- Immediate delivery

CELEBRATING

31

YEARS

TRUSTED MERCHANT

2016

★★★★★

feefo

Offer not available on web specials or in-store concessions. Certain items shown are one only and subject to availability. *See website for Price Promise details.